

# THE JOURNAL

• Friday, November 19, 1999 • 50 cents (tax included)

**Sports** Albany girls volleyball wins league title — again [C1]

**Sports** Undefeated El Cerrito set to square off against St. Mary's [C1]

## Rehab tax measure wins approval for ballot

The council unanimously OKs sending measure to voters in March

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — It looks like the voters will get to decide. A \$5.3 million special

tax measure to fund Swim Center reconstruction, Canyon Trail Clubhouse rehabilitation and rest room renovations at three city park clubhouses was unanimously approved for the March ballot by the City Council Monday night. More than 70 people attended the meeting and the audience burst into applause when the measure passed.

The special tax proposal requires approval in two separate votes of the council, and a special Nov. 22 City Council meeting has been scheduled.

After much discussion, the council decided to go with a 20-year special or parcel

tax instead of an ad valorem bond. A parcel tax charges the same amount per parcel of land; ad valorem is based on assessed value. The maximum annual tax imposed on a single family residential unit would be \$58.46 under the plan. A multi-family residential unit would be taxed a maximum \$45 annually. Non-residential property would be taxed at \$410 per acre maximum.

"To me it seems like a very simple issue we've been discussing now for four weeks," said Councilwoman Jane Bartke. "Should we put the issue on the ballot for the citizens to decide? And I believe

yes. Let's put it on the ballot. We're not making the final decision of spending the money. We're giving the decision to the citizens to make the final decision."

"I think it's pretty clear how important this pool is to our community," Councilman Mark Friedman said at the meeting. "I'm prepared to go forward if there's a consensus of my colleagues."

If approved in the second vote as expected, the proposed tax will go on the March 7, 2000, ballot and needs two-thirds voter approval to pass.

Low-income seniors 62 years old and older, and the blind and disabled, will be

eligible for postponements, grants or tax refunds. Vacant property or property under private ownership and designated as open space in the city's General Plan will be exempt from the tax unless the property is used primarily for residential use.

The measure calls for a "dedicated fund" for maintenance and future reconstruction of the Swim Center and clubhouses.

It also stipulates that monies received through fund raising, grants and other contributions and sources be used to reduce the amount or term of the tax.



LIFE MEMBER Frank Gabbert of Albany 2658 Veterans of Foreign Wars held a salute to the flag while soft voices, including Nina Ellsworth's, sang the "Star Spangled Banner" at dedication ceremonies for the Veterans' Memorial held on Veteran's Day.

## Permanent memorial honors all who served

By J.R. Deaton

EL CERRITO — Under high clouds, a blue sky and a warm sun, about 200 people gathered on Veterans Day last week to dedicate the El Cerrito Veterans Memorial Garden. The culmination of the day was the unveiling of a large granite stone, the centerpiece of the new memorial, by Mayor Gina Brusatori and County Veteran Service Officer Gary Villalba.

"A grateful community honors our veterans. Past, present and future. El Cerrito 11-11-99," reads a polished granite plaque attached to stone. It was a day of pressed uniforms, old soldiers, emotion and patriotic speeches. Active duty personnel from the Army National Guard, the Marines, the Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines were present. A color guard of UC-Berkeley Air Force Cadets and Boy Scouts were part of the ceremonies. Civic leaders included Brusatori, Contra Costa Supervisor

'It's never too late. I think that it's a good thing to see cities embracing their veterans because it's a simple thing.'

— Johnny W. Poon, veteran

John Gioia and City Council members Mark Friedman and Larry Damon.

"Today, we honor and salute all of the many American veterans who throughout our history have unselfishly placed their lives on the line for freedom," said Veterans of Foreign Wars State Jr. Vice Cmdr, Rocky Hocken-hull, at the ceremonies. "We also honor those veterans from every period of peace as well, for they protect what our war veterans fought and died to defend. American veterans represent all races and all ethnic groups, they are men, they are women. They are the neighbors next door, the owners of the grocery store, and the firemen that save our lives."

Located off Manila Avenue at City Hall, the newly dedicated memorial includes the inscribed stone, a lighted flagpole, benches, a curved walkway and landscaping. Dozens of chrysanthemums with blossoms of red and yellow,

orange, pink and white surround the stone and benches. Small trees and shrubs and tall grasses also add greenery. Additional landscaping and other improvements are planned for the future.

The memorial was made possible by the efforts of nearly 200 individuals and businesses who donated money and time to the project.

Esther Sergeant, chairwoman of the Veterans Memorial Garden Committee,

gave a heartfelt thanks to all the people who made the memorial a reality.

"It was a community effort and a public-private partnership," she said.

There were many veterans at the ceremony, many wearing VFW caps and gold pins. Some wore their medals and ribbons, some did not.

"It's never too late. I think that it's a

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UC-BERKELEY Air Force Cadets carried the colors at the ceremony.

## Council sets guidelines on signs

By James Carter

ALBANY — The City Council gave staff the authority to issue specific types of sign permits and home occupancy permits that meet current guidelines after a long and confusing session Monday night.

After several failed efforts to reach consensus — discussions where council members at times questioned their own positions — the council gave Community Development Director Ann Chaney the capacity to approve sign permits at business locations where there has been a change in ownership if signs remain the same size, shape, and maintain previous design features.

"We need to move forward," said Mayor Peggy Thomsen, after expressing concerns about perceptions that Albany is not a "business friendly" city.

The council also granted Chaney the authority to approve home occupation (work) permits if they meet "current standards."

The vote was 3-to-1. Councilmen Allan Maris, Ed McManus, and Thomsen voted yes. Councilman Robert Good opposed the motion, and asked for the Zoning and Planning Commission be given the opportunity to "take another look" at the changes.

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## Making a 70-year impression with rubber stamps

By James Carter

When Walter Ellis went into business 70 years ago, most things were built to last.

Take a dating stamp, for example. Those darn things are so sturdy that Ellis still has some at the Berkeley Stamp Co. that were manufactured during World War II. And they're as good as new.

Ellis makes and repairs all kinds of instruments and gizmos, including rubber stamps, impression seals, and date markers. Someday they'll be in the Smithsonian Institute due to their simplicity of design and the genius of craft. But you can still buy one from Ellis.

Date markers are little machines that fit into the palm of your hand, with rotating dies and firm metal handles easy to grasp. Just turn a serrated dial like a Swiss watch gear and there you are — another date, another day, another time, another year. Simple. No Y2K problem there.

A signature rubber stamp is yet another work of genius: simple wood-handled tools you press into an ink pad, line up on the dotted line and press again.

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## WORTH CHECKING OUT

## Romanian dance workshop

Theodor Vasilescu, renowned dance researcher and dance teacher from Romania, will be giving a Romanian dance workshop today at the Albany Y, at 921 Kains St., at 8:10 p.m. This will be Vasilescu's only workshop in the Bay Area open to the public. The workshop will start about 8:10 p.m. continuing to about 9:25 p.m. It will be followed by participatory international folk dancing to tapes until 11 p.m. The workshop costs \$8, and the public is invited. The workshop will be followed by international dancing. Everyone is welcome to join in, beginners as well as more advanced dancers. No partners are necessary. Most selections are line dances from Greece and the Balkans, Romania, Israel, and other countries. Folk dancing includes both fast and energetic dances as well as slow and lyrical ones.

## Campus police officer

On Tuesday, Nov. 23, the Albany Unified School District Board of Education will review and take action on the issue of the School Resource Officer Program at Albany High School. Public comment is invited. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Cornell School multi-purpose room, 901 Cornell Ave.

## Community Orchestra concert

The Albany Community Orchestra will present a free public concert Sunday afternoon, Nov. 21 at 2 p.m. in the Albany Community Center, 1249 Marin Ave. The featured soloist will be cellist Franklin Benson, who will perform the "Elegie" for cello and orchestra by the French composer Gabriel Faure. Benson, a chemist at Bio-Rad Laboratories in Hercules, is an avid performer. He

has played in the Albany Orchestra for 12 years, and is also a member of the Kensington Symphony, the Evelyn Ensemble, and the Waldo Trio. He moved to California from the Boston area 14 years ago, and lives in El Cerrito. Also featured will be soprano Teresa Colyer, who will sing a selection of popular songs from Mexico: "Adios Maraquita Linda," "Cielito Lindo," and "La Cucaracha." Colyer is a teacher in the El Cerrito schools, plays violin in the orchestra, and gives private voice lessons. Details: 925-934-3627.

## Church holiday bazaar

The Arlington Community Church Holiday Bazaar will be on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 52 Arlington Ave. in Kensington. A vintage robin's egg blue 1965 Volkswagen convertible will be auctioned at 2:30 p.m. Come and enjoy homemade baked goods, and hand-crafted gifts. Photos with Santa can be taken from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. A hot lunch with live music from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Children's crafts, vintage jewelry and gift books make the Arlington Community Church the best place to holiday shop.

## Internet for beginners

Curious about the internet but new to computers? Sign up for free one-on-one tutoring with a Volunteer Internet Docent at the Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., every Saturday morning and some weekday evenings. For more information, or to make an appointment, call the Albany Library, 526-3720.

## 'Tom Jones' at AHS

AHS Theatre Ensemble presents "Tom Jones" at the Little Theater. Performance dates are: Nov. 19 and 20, at 8 p.m., and Nov. 21 at 5 p.m.

## Holiday pancake event

A Holiday Pancake Breakfast and Toy Drive will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 9-10 a.m. in El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane. Tickets are \$6 per person. Visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, plus Sparky the Dog. Call 215-4377 for reservations.

## Suspensions, expulsions

The Albany Unified School District Board of Education will hold a "Study Session" for the board and administrators in order for legal counsel to provide updates on suspension and expulsion procedures, on Tuesday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. in the Cornell School multi-purpose room, 901 Cornell Ave.

## Kensington Symphony

The Kensington Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of guest conductor Harvey Benstein, will perform "Symphony No. 4" by Beethoven and "Capriccio Italian" by Tchaikovsky on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 8 p.m. at the First Baptist Church at 770 Sonoma St. in Richmond. Tickets are available at the door; they are \$10 general admission, \$8 for seniors, children under 12 are free. Details 525-4796.

## Bosnian trauma survivors

Rita Maran, Ph.D., will be giving a lecture on "Human Rights and Trauma Survivors in Bosnia: An Innovative Psycho-educational Approach" on Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at the Center for Psychological Studies, 1398 Solano Ave., in Albany. Maran teaches human rights at UC Berkeley, and worked in Bosnia for the U.S. State Department. There is no charge to attend, but reservations are recommended. Details: 524-0291.

## Everyone a winner at Cub Scout breakfast

ALBANY — Winning a prize is always a whole lot of fun. For a \$2 investment, you can support Albany's Cub Scout Pack 3 while buying a chance to win a drawing prize.

You can help the Scouts continue their winning program, and have a chance at winning a local merchant's donated prize.

Five dollars puts you in the big league. Adults can enjoy a sumptuous pancake breakfast on Sunday from 7-11 a.m. at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 1325 Portland Ave., and also be entered in the drawing.

The best breakfast bargain going on that Sunday at Memorial Park has to be the ticket price for seniors and for children 12 and under — \$3 buys both breakfast "with all the fixins," and a chance to win.

Generous support from service groups and local merchants makes it all possible.

Dining at Chez Memorial Park is made possible through the ongoing support of American Legion Post 292, and the gifts of local businesses who have donated free meals, edibles, services and a host of other gifts (see partial list below).

The number of prizes donated makes it easy to imagine going home with a prize after having a bargain breakfast.

Albany Cub Scouts encourage every boy 7-12 years old to join and go camping, skiing, hiking and learn the importance of community service,

as well as self improvement, family and conservation.

You can meet the Cub Scout in action at the pancake breakfast, while enjoying the company of other community members.

Sixty pounds of bacon, 20 pounds of ham, and 60 dozen eggs are provided by Richmond Moose Lodge Chapter 550, sponsors of the pancake breakfast for the third year.

Happy Produce, McDonald's, Monterey Market, Peet's Coffee, Safeway, Sizzler and Starbucks Coffee will also see to it that your breakfast will be indeed be a pleasurable feast.

Delicious food will be enjoyed by the lucky winners of prize gift certificates. Prizes include:

■ Berkeley/El Cerrito Natural Grocery Store — four winners of \$10 each

■ Lalime's Cafe — \$35

■ Round Table Pizza — two winners of a large pizza

■ Westbrae Deli — three winners of \$5 each

■ Toot Sweets — one fudge or walnut pie

■ Noah's New York Bagels

Leslie Hruska is donating two gift certificates for one dozen imported Ecuadorian roses, perfect for your next celebration.

Decorating will be made easier for the winner of a \$50 gift certificate from East Bay Paint Center.

Gardeners will be happy to win either the \$25 gift certificate from Flow-

erland, or the \$20 gift certificate from Westbrae Nursery.

In the mood for a party? Albany Bowl is giving a certificate good for a two-hour bowling party for eight-10 people. Albany Theater is giving away a set of four theater passes with a value of \$31.

Getting ready to go out? Dr. Denise Alexander is giving an electric toothbrush. Tidlywinks clothing store is donating a \$15 gift certificate. Fashion Nails is giving away a free manicure.

Gift certificates to indulge your hobbies? Dave's Doughtout Baseball Cards is donating \$10. M.C. Newburn Books is giving \$10. Tower Records is giving two prizes both for \$5.

Ready to start the new year in good stead? Cheasty & Cheasty is donating two prizes both for one hour of legal consultation and assistance. Copy Central is giving a certificate good for making 200 copies (\$10 value).

Above are the early prizes pledged by local businesses. People who want to donate prizes, purchase a ticket or a pancake breakfast/drawing can call Mary Kelleher-Jones at 528-0233 for more information. Tickets can also be purchased at the pancake breakfast.

Submitted by Albany Cub Scout Pack 3, Den 3 (one of the oldest Packs in the Bay Area, founded in 1933.)

## Police seek cell phone's owner

By K. Osborn

ALBANY — The Albany Police Department has asked this space to announce that it recovered a handheld cellular phone and cord from AAA that was with another car phone that had been stolen the same night.

Police are unable to trace it to the owner. They are asking Albany and El Cerrito residents with AAA car and phones to please check your car and see if your phone is missing. If so, it may be at the Albany Police Station. Please call Sgt. Dolter at 525-7300 and refer to case No. 99-2575.

■ At about 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 8, an Albany resident reported that while at Marin School a subject described as a white male, 17-18 years old, with orange spiky hair, wearing a black shirt and black jeans, asked if he could ride the resident's bike. The resident had seen the person before and let him ride his bike. Unfortunately, the thief rode off and didn't come back. Officers took the report and while investigating they found the bike at a home on Vincente Avenue in Berkeley. The bike was returned to its owner.

■ On the night of Nov. 8, officers located a blue Toyota pickup reported as stolen from El Cerrito. They towed the car and notified the owner.

■ On the morning of Nov. 9, a resident on the 800 block of Ramona Avenue reported that sometime during the prior two days thieves stole her bike from her back yard. There were no witnesses.

■ At about noon on Nov. 9, Albany officers responded to the Albany High School on a report from the office that they had two students in possession of suspected drugs. Officers contacted the 16-year-old boy and the 17-year-old girl and took the substance for testing. No charges were pressed and the high school will handle the situation.

■ On the evening of Nov. 9, a resident on the 1200 block of Brighton Avenue reported that during the

early morning hours thieves stole his tan technol car cover. There were no witnesses.

■ On the evening of Nov. 9, a resident on the 500 block of Talbot Avenue reported that his home had been burglarized during the day. The thieves had broken in through a window. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 2 a.m. on Nov. 10, Richmond police reported locating a red '91 Honda that had been reported as stolen from Albany. The license plate was missing along with other items. They did not have a suspect in custody. The owner was notified.

■ At about 2 p.m. on Nov. 10, officers responded to a report that a '95 Ford T-Bird had been stolen from Pierce Street. There were no witnesses.

■ On the night of Nov. 10, a resident on the 500 block of Jackson Street reported that during the previous two to three hours thieves broke into her white '96 Ford Explorer. They had broken a rear window and stole items. There were no witnesses.

■ On the morning of Nov. 11, officers located a white 1984 Nissan pickup near the intersection of Kains and Garfield avenues that had been reported as stolen from Oakland. The owner was notified.

■ On the morning of Nov. 12, officers stopped a silver 1983 Audi 5000 for a traffic violation. The driver, a 34-year-old Oakland woman, was found to have several outstanding warrants. She was arrested and transported to the Marshall's office to await transport to the county jail.

■ On the morning of Nov. 12, a resident on the 1000 block of Stannage Avenue reported that thieves had broken into his green Toyota and stole items. There were no witnesses.

■ On the afternoon of Nov. 12, a resident on the 700 block of Adams Street reported that thieves had again stolen potted plants from her front yard. There were no witnesses.

■ There were two reports of car tires being punctured on the 1200

## POLICE REPORT

block of Portland on Nov. 12. There were no witnesses to their incident.

■ On the afternoon of Nov. 12, the 500 block of Cleveland Avenue from San Pablo. There was anyone in custody and no witnesses.

■ On the night of Nov. 12, a resident on the 1200 block of Jackson Avenue reported that during the day thieves had broken into his back yard. There was evidence that someone had pry open a rear window and no witnesses.

■ Just after noon on Nov. 12, a resident on the 700 Buchanan Street reported that thieves had stolen the car from his gray '91 Ford. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 12, police responded to the 1200 block of Pierce Street on a report of a run incident that had occurred. A white 1987 Ford Explorer leaving the scene at a high speed and the caller was officers where the car was parked. Officers arrested the driver for driving without a license. He was cited with a Notice to Appear.

During the week of Nov. 12, officers towed five cars to four false alarms, animals lost or deceased animals, people who were locked out of their house or car and reported a report of a barking dog.

In the domestic arena, officers responded to one stand-by civil disturbances and 73 calls.

Officers stopped 44 vehicles, issued 30 citations and Albany firefighters responded to 12 medical emergencies.

## Home ransacked, threats made

EL CERRITO — A burglar in his late teens scaled the walls of a building on the 700 block of Ashbury Oct. 21, until he reached a balcony on the second floor.

There he cut through the screen of a sliding glass door, entered the place and stole nearly \$17,000 in valuables.

To add insult to injury, the teen carved threats on the walls of the home, then fled.

■ Sometime during the late evening or early morning of Oct. 31 or Nov. 1, a thief climbed into an unlocked car parked on the 700 block of Kearney Street. He stole a camera from the glove box and a walkman from the trunk before fleeing the scene of the crime.

■ On the 500 block of Lexington Avenue Nov. 1, a would-be burglar opened a garage door searching for valuables, though he turned up empty-handed. He did, however, succeed in damaging an automobile alarm system to the tune of \$500 in repairs.

■ A 49-year-old man spent the night on the balcony of an apartment on the 11700 block of San Pablo Avenue Nov. 4 without as much as an invitation. When police arrived at 4:15 a.m., they discovered the man was so intoxicated that he didn't even know where he was, though that apparently was not the case when he woke up later that day in jail.

■ A 39-year-old man exposed himself to a 36-year-old Berkeley woman and a witness Nov. 8 on the 10800 block of San Pablo Avenue. The exhibition did not attract a crowd, except for police who arrived and arrested the man on the spot.

■ At 7 p.m. Nov. 8, an argument broke out between a 35-year-old man and a 28-year-old woman on Potrero Avenue near the BART path. In an apparent exhibition of brute force

and malicious intent, the man pulled the woman's umbrella, and broke the parasol in half, immediately placed under arrest by the disgruntled picked up by police, and with vandalism.

■ A woman asked police to oversee a civil standby on the block of El Dorado Street. An old man reacted violently to the presence and the restaurant and told police he would heck out of there. Apparently a careful review, the man's plans and barricaded himself behind an apartment door, forced the door open, and into custody and charged with threatening police.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## The Journal



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## EDITORIAL

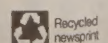
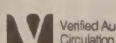
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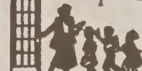


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## LOCAL CLINIC PARTICIPATING IN GLOBAL SCHIZOPHRENIA STUDY

Berkeley, July 28, 1999 - Berkeley Therapy Institute announced today that they have begun enrolling patients into a clinical trial of a compound being evaluated for the treatment of schizophrenia. The study, known as ILP 3004, is one of several in a worldwide development project known as the ReALiZe program.

The study at Berkeley Therapy Institute is part of a clinical development program to evaluate the efficacy and safety of an investigational drug in the treatment of patients with schizoaffective disorder or schizophrenia. Schizophrenia is a devastating condition, which affects nearly one percent of the world's population; schizophrenia is the most common and disabling of all major mental illnesses.

Schizophrenia impairs patients' cognitive functions causing positive symptoms such as hallucinations and delusions, and negative symptoms such as blunted affect and social withdrawal. The disease typically strikes in late adolescence, with the onset of gross abnormalities in perception and an inability to feel or express pleasure. The profound incidence of suicide among schizophrenics is a well-documented public health problem.

Dr. Robert Dolgoff, primary investigator for this clinical trial at Berkeley Therapy Institute, notes that "despite impressive advances in psychiatry, we still do not have optimal treatment for schizophrenia. As many as 20% to 30% of patients do not respond to, or get unpleasant side effects with, the medications that are currently available. Therefore, research into new modes of treatment is vital for patients battling this disease.

Patients participating in this ReALiZe study will receive free study medication or placebo and will be closely monitored on a regular basis by mental health professionals. To be eligible for participation in the trial, patients must be between the ages of 18 and 65, diagnosed with schizophrenia and exhibiting symptoms of the disease. In addition, participants must meet all inclusion criteria specified in the study protocol.

To obtain further information about this ReALiZe study, please contact Clinical Trial Coordinator Leigh Pruneau, RN, Ph.D., at (510) 841-8484, ext. 136.



## EL CERRITO IN BRIEF

## Another loss

Seven-year city employee Beth Herbe has announced she will be leaving the city at the end of this month.

Since 1994, Herbe has served as El Cerrito's Maintenance and Engineering Services management assistant. Before that, she worked in the Community Services Department.

"With the loss of Beth, the city and the Community Development Department will be losing not only a valuable and competent employee, but also a significant amount of institutional memory," said Community Development Manager Gerald Raycraft last week.

"Beth will be leaving the end of November and we all wish her well."

Herbe is taking a position as administrative assistant for design services with Harris & Associates, the city's storm drain and sewer management system consultant. Harris & Associates also provides engineering services to El Cerrito on a contract basis.

Other City Hall employees who have left El Cerrito in the past few months include Planning Manager Edward Phillips, Maintenance and Engineering Services Manager Mon Struve.

Police Chief Linda Fellers resigned in August at the request of the city manager. Fire Chief Stephen Cutright left last January to become fire chief in Emeryville.

## Successful run

The final numbers are in, and they are impressive.

Interim Chief of Police Peter Sarna reported last week that the 1999 Northern California Law Enforcement Torch Run raised nearly \$500,000 for the Special Olympics.

"This year's Northern California run involved over 2,500 law enforcement personnel between June 9 and 18, and covered over 30 counties ending up in Stockton, the site of this year's Summer Games," Sarna said. From the ECPD, Sgt. Gary Priebe, Detective Jeff Albrandt and Sgt. Dan Hurley ran with the torch along San Pablo Avenue, carrying it from Albany into Richmond.

The torch run occurs in all 50 states and in 30 countries and generates more than \$1.5 million annually, Sarna said.

## Taxing figures

El Cerrito's sales tax collections continue to look good.

Final sales tax revenue produced by El Cerrito businesses during the second quarter of 1999 should total to \$501,758, which is a projected gain of 10.7 percent over the same quarter last year.

The information was presented in a report prepared by Municipal Resource Consultants, the city's sales tax auditor. The State Board of Equalization collected \$808,722 of city sales tax revenues from El Cerrito businesses for the second quarter.

"Key gains in the second quarter, as in the first quarter, are from new auto sales, office equipment and department store economic segments," Financial Services Manager Julie Brown said in a report to the City Council and city manager. "New auto sales and department store economic segments together make up 94 percent of the city's sales tax." Asked about the significance of the 10.7 percent over last year, Brown pointed out that new stores such as Staples, Pep Boys,

Walgreens and Hollywood Video at the new Del Norte Marketplace have added to the sales tax revenues.

"You didn't have those last year," she said, noting that the overall economy is improved as well.

## Students will access Library of Congress

Students from El Cerrito and Pinole Valley high schools will take part in the National Digital Library Project, which allows students to experience history and culture through the Library of Congress.

The Bay Area School Reform Collaborative will receive \$500,000 for the project from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Students will get access to thousands of documents, films and recordings. The information comes from the Library of Congress' American Memory collection and the California archives at UC-Berkeley's Bancroft Library.

## 20 feet of 20 minutes

The City Council this week authorized 20 feet of green curbing and a 20-minute parking limit sign along the north side of Knott Avenue adjacent to the entrance of Del Norte Place. Interim Maintenance and Engineering Services Manager Bruce King reported to the council that several residents of Del Norte Place have requested the parking limit.

"There currently is no designated passenger loading/unloading zone along the Knott Avenue Side of Del Norte Place," King reported. "Residents and guests, especially those who are elderly and/or unable to walk long distance, are often unable to find a parking place close to the entrance," he said.

Staff queried the businesses in Del Norte Place and there were no objections to the proposed 20-minute parking zone. Costs for the painting and sign will come from this fiscal year's Maintenance and Engineering Services budget, King reported.

## Final count

There were some relatively minor changes in the vote counts when the Contra Costa County Elections Department confirmed the final tally of the Nov. 2 City Council election.

Janet Abelson and Kathleen Perka remained the winners and each will be sworn in for three-year terms at the Dec. 6 City Council meeting. Abelson remained the top vote-getter, but her total increased to 2,882 or 27.2 percent of the vote.

Perka came in second and her total increased to 2,841, or 26.8 percent. Letitia Moore's total rose to 2,723 or 25.7 percent, and Beatrice O'Keefe's vote count rose to 2,162 or 20.4 percent.

## How children grow

Child development expert and author, Bev Bos, will lead a workshop on creative environments called "How Children Grow" on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 7-9 p.m. at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane, El Cerrito. This event benefits El Cerrito Preschool Cooperative. Tickets are \$15 per person, with group discounts available.

The event is adults only and seating

## Young people get chance to air concerns to government representatives at conference

By Marc Albert

Dilapidated buildings, semester-long classes run by a revolving door of substitutes, rats, filthy bathrooms, untrained and burned-out teachers, police harassment, low wages and, of course, horrible lunches.

North-county politicians took a turn at listening to young people at a Saturday, Nov. 13, youth summit at Berkeley's Malcolm X school.

Politicians and policymakers got an earful.

"The (school) security guards treat students like prisoners," said Jeniece Deramus, a 16-year-old student at Alameda's Encinal High School. "There is sexual harassment by guards, they are dating students, selling weed to students and smoking it with them," she said of Oakland's Castlemont and McClymonds high schools.

"Not everyone can get a textbook," said Alisha Simmonds, "and the classes are all overcrowded, so you can't transfer out of the class even if you don't have the book. The guidance counselors have 300 students each, they never know who you are or even what classes you have to take to fulfill graduation requirements."

Simmonds said many students end up in summer school as a result.

"Some teachers have students read books in class while the teacher reads newspapers and drinks coffee," chimed in another student.

"It's fascinating," said Piedmont School Board member Betsy Gentry. "The personal stories make the county-wide problems come alive. People think Piedmont has no problems, but it's like any other place. We need more things for kids to do. We have problems with alcohol too. Our group talked a lot about connecting education with the real world, and that's something we all need to do."

After opening remarks, 135 students and officials from Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland and Piedmont broke into brainstorming groups.

The auditorium quickly filled with the clamor of dialogue as students voiced concerns and shared ideas with decision-makers.

Students talked about school, stress and worries about how education prepares them for the future.

When Berkeley City Manager James Keene asked one student if he expected to get the job and salary he wanted, the student replied that if he didn't, he "would have to turn to selling drugs."

Oakland City Councilwoman Nancy Nadel said students reinforced her ideas about larger social issues.

"Some of the students feel like there won't be jobs even after they get out of school. We need to train employees and make people into entrepreneurs. The rosy job statistics you hear about are not reflected by a lot of what these kids see on the street."

For Berkeley Vice Mayor Maudelle



STEVE MASLANKA

BERKELEY HIGH student Jaddias Franklin, left, next to county Board of Education Superintendent Sheila Jordan at Saturday's conference, describes what he says has been unfair treatment by police.

Shirek, the meeting confirmed many of her observations.

"In this country our priorities are all wrong. We spend too much on prisons. How many educational institutions are being built right now, and how many prisons?"

Students were not only concerned by what goes on in school.

Sally Jenkins-Stevens, a 17-year-old Berkeley High School student, said youth end up facing off with police because of a lack of recreational opportunities.

"Kids drink, and that's just the truth," she said. "Kids drink in parks and police patrol the parks and arrest them. You can't say there is a bowling alley so there is something to do."

Rhiannon O'Leary, 17, also a Berkeley High School student agreed.

"There need to be clubs, places where you can dance. There are no places like that for people under 21."

O'Leary said officials should try to establish a shuttle system with more buses at night, or a subsidized taxi scheme to keep youth from drinking and driving.

"Drinking and driving is bad, but people still need a way to get from point A to point B," she said.

Students working for Berkeley Youth Alternatives and other groups want their minimum-wage salaries increased to jive with those doing comparable work.

Edward Simon, a brawny 15-year-old, said he deserves a minimum of \$7.50 an hour for construction work that generally pays about \$13 an hour.

Many students complained about laws enabling youth as young as 14 to

be tried in court as adults.

Calls for legalization of marijuana drew loud applause and some laughter. Another student drew a cacophony of applause by attacking school lunches.

"Everything they have to eat has to have cheese on it. What's up with that?" he said.

Most students came away feeling good about expressing themselves, but wondered what would come out of the meeting.

"It felt good to talk to people and feel that I'm not the only one with frustrations. It came through that they were really, honestly interested," said Mira Evnine, a junior at Oakland Tech.

"The youth speaking out part went well," said Maria-Elena Young, an Oakland Tech senior, "but I didn't get a sense of what the officials think of us."

Some officials said real improvements would be hard won.

"There's a difference between remedies and fixes," said Piedmont School Board President Chuck Chakraborty.

"We glamorize violence but decry it when violence shows up in schools. We glamorize sex and it's on TV and in movies, and then we wonder why children mimic these things in our schools and parks."

"This crisis in urban school funding is important. We need to look toward eliminating the disparity between affluent schools and other schools. People tend to go for the short fix, for the here and now, in-

"There need to be clubs, places where you can dance. There are no places like that for people under 21."

— Rhiannon O'Leary, Berkeley High School student

stead of the long-term remedy."

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson, who organized the event, declared it a success and hopes to hold future meetings.

"I thought the students opened up a lot. I want to make a summary of the meeting available to public officials," he said.

For all the problems pointed out by students, Oakland Police Chief Richard Word, who described the meeting as "helpful and informative," found a silver lining.

"The schools must be doing something right, because the kids in my group were very intelligent, bright and articulate," he said.

Word said he would work for more communication between police and young people.

## The Great Turning

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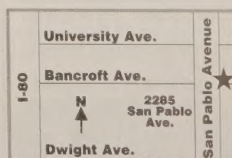
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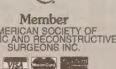
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**City of Berkeley  
CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC NOTICE  
December 7, 1999**

**Notice that the City of Berkeley City Council will Consider the Adoption of a Negative Declaration**

An Environmental Initial Study and Negative Declaration have been prepared for the project described below pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The documents are available for public review from Nov. 15, 1999 through Dec. 6, 1999 at the Berkeley Main Library, 2121 Allston Way and at the City of Berkeley Redevelopment Agency Office, 2118 Milvia Street, Third Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704.

The project consists of extending the Plan Effectiveness Deadline for the West Berkeley Redevelopment Plan from Dec. 31, 2002 to Jan. 1, 2009. The Plan Effectiveness Deadline is the deadline for which all redevelopment project activity needs to contractually commit. The extension of the Plan Effectiveness Deadline will allow the following projects, which might not be completed within the current deadline, to be approved by the Redevelopment Agency and for the project to be committed. Currently programmed projects within the Redevelopment Project Area (sixteen blocks in West Berkeley bordered by Frontage Road, Cedar St. and Sixth Street) include: Rialto Stop, Improvements, Streetscape Improvements, Centralized Parking Garage, Short Term Parking Measures, and the Gilman Interchange.

All projects are part of the current Redevelopment Plan and are consistent with the West Berkeley Plan. The West Berkeley Plan EIR provides an adequate level of environmental analysis of the projects for this stage of review. All projects will be subject to additional CEQA review after the specific designs and sites for each of the projects have been finalized and prior to action to approve any specific project by the Redevelopment Agency.

The City Council will consider the Initial Study and Draft Negative Declaration at the Dec. 7, 1999 meeting. The meeting will be held in Council Chambers, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley beginning at 7:00 P.M. For more information, please call Ted Burton at (510) 705-8181.



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# North Berkeley delicatessen a cultural connection and place to eat

By C. Zap

It is Thursday, and Irene Komow is sitting in Saul's Restaurant and Delicatessen with her granddaughter, Robin Roberts, Roberts' husband, John Roberts, and their two children, Komow's great-grandchildren, Matt, 6 and Willes, 10.

"Saul's is a very good place," said Komow, who will celebrate her 100th birthday in December. Komow says that although it is not as sophisticated as the delicatessens in New York, where she lived until five years ago, she comes here twice a week, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

"She orders the waffle and the home fries and complains about them both," said Peter Levitt, who along with Karen Adelman have owned Saul's Delicatessen and Restaurant for the last two years and co-managed it for the last five. Crabby customers are part of the fun, says Adelman.

"Complaining is totally part of it. It's just a very testy crowd. You have to embrace it or you can't go forward," she says.

Both Levitt and Adelman expect Komow on her twice weekly visits, which she has made for the last five years, and know the four generations of her family who come to eat at the restaurant.

Like Komow and her family, 70 percent of Saul's business is comprised of regular customers who come for their favorite comfort food and a side of emotional nourishment.

"Going to the deli is like going to your relative's house for dinner. It's an extended family. Especially because you're sitting in a room devoted to Jewish food. You're going to feel a certain sense of comfort if you're Jewish," said L. John Harris, a freelance food writer.

Harris, who describes himself as a "kitchen Jew," founded the Deli Project, an effort to preserve and promote Jewish culinary culture. Projects include a book, an exhibit and a documentary he co-produced in 1998 with Bill Chayes, video and photography curator at the Judah L. Magnes museum.

Over lunch at Saul's recently, Harris discussed the remodeling of the restaurant, which is expected to be complete in December.

Saul's construction coincides with its bar mitzvah, or 13th year in existence. Adelman says the changes to the deli marks Saul's adulthood.

The restaurant is expanding into the old Baskin-Robbins scoop shop next door. The two spaces currently share a wall that is coming down. Although the black and white linoleum tile and the shiny red booths will stay the same, the kitchen will be bigger and the fixtures modernized.

According to Levitt, the model is not for a trendy restaurant, but one that will last for another 20 or 30 years.

According to Harris, Jewish deli culture is fading, but not dying.

"The deli had to change to survive. Either change or be an icon, like the Carnegie (deli in New York)," he said between bites of his off-the-menu invention: A cornbeef and pastrami sandwich with au jus on the side.

What is a Jewish deli? For every Jew there is a different definition. Or, as Harris said, "two Jews, three delis."

It is a tradition that it is inherently linked with Jewish culture and religion. The deli is the secular synagogue, where people can eat, commune and connect with the past.

"The spiritual side and the eating side have always been very connected," said Harris.

Observant Jews who follow strict dietary laws eat kosher food. Rabbis oversee the entire manufacturing process, from slaughtering to packaging of the meat in order to receive the kosher mark of approval.

The link between religion and food

in the kosher world is a clear one. But for many Jews, sometimes the main link to their religion is the food.

"Every Jew has a deli in their childhood. At least one. And every Jew has a favorite deli item," said Harris, who grew up in Los Angeles.

In Berkeley, Levitt and Adelman are seeking to preserve the past and remake the future of the deli.

Levitt, 40, is originally from the Transvaal province of South Africa.

He came to Berkeley in 1980 to attend UC-Berkeley. After graduating, he decided that teaching math wasn't all he had hoped for. So Levitt apprenticed at Olivetto's and Chez Panisse as a chef.

Adelman, 38, who grew up in Los Angeles, waitressed at Saul's for more than five years and ultimately became the manager, all to support her artistic aspirations. Adelman's drawings now grace the restaurant signs and T-shirts.

The two met at the Buttercup café on College Avenue, before Levitt moved on to cook for more upscale restaurants while Adelman waited tables.

Together, the two are tackling the role of the Jewish deli in a world where Jews have no culinary alliances.

"Jews are so assimilated that they've stopped coming to the delis for nourishment. The decline of the deli represents the assimilation of the population. Our job becomes to reinvent that, to find a reason to bring people back," said Levitt.

At the same time, the two don't want to alienate their core group of customers who do remember when a Jewish deli stood for something.

"There's a sensitive balance between meeting people's memories and running a business, a restaurant," said Levitt.

Part of the challenge is the collective memory of patrons who remember the delis of their youth.

"But how do you continue those traditions but make it relevant without innovating recklessly, but make it a living thing?" asked Adelman.

Partly, it is to introduce Jewish foods from non-European cultures, such as the Middle East. This fits more with a healthy way of eating, especially for those who eschew meat.

And with these changes, the two deli owners expect complaints and don't take offense. It's just part of an ongoing conversation about what makes a deli.

Can a sandwich just be a sandwich without breaking into an argument?

Adelman and Levitt expect and even enjoy the grousing over pastrami and rye.

"Deli patrons are doing that whole Madeleine thing. They want to go back in time to their table to their deli. If they see arugula on the menu, they flip out," said Adelman, who has had to soothe more than one fuss budget.

Adelman says she likes the dynamic. That's why she asked Komow, the 99-year-old regular, to be the ribbon cutter when their build-out is complete.

Before the last of the old guard of deli patrons are gone, Harris, along with Chayes, want to capture the memories and memorabilia of the old-time Jewish deli.

The idea is to start an archive that will eventually lead to an exhibit at the Magnes Museum.

The project is not just for the gourmand. Chayes said that Jewish delis are "an integral part of the Jewish experience in America. There are two centers of the Jewish community. The synagogue and the delicatessen."

Delicatessens were always a Jewish meeting place, Chayes said. And while the strict kosher delis of the past are waning, there has also been an Americanization of Jewish food.

This is why despite the changes to Saul's, Adelman wants to keep the photographs of the New York delis on the wall. Just as the food of the holidays recounts the stories of the Jews, Adelman said, "The photos help one generation tell another generation a story of where they used to eat."

"Jews are so assimilated that they've stopped coming to the delis for nourishment. Our job becomes to reinvent that, to find a reason to bring people back."

— Peter Levitt.



MANAGER PETER LEVITT takes orders from behind the counter Saul's Restaurant and Deli. The deli is undergoing major renovation work.

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## OBITUARY

Meda Cole Rechen, 77

Meda Cole Rechen died Oct. 31 at age 77 after a short illness.

A memorial service for Meda will be held Nov. 20, 3 p.m., in the chapel of Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda in Berkeley. A reception will follow.

She was born in Syracuse, N.Y., in 1921 and married Jeb Rechen in 1943. After many years of Navy life, they moved to Berkeley in 1955, where she became involved in many community organizations. Organizations included the League of Women Voters, Cares Bank and Northbrae Community Church. She was dedicated to preserving the Berkeley Waterfront Park and worked tirelessly toward that end.

She is survived by her daughters Nancy Malin of Arlington, Va. and Carol Wiedenmeyer of Fairfield; brothers LeGrande Cole of Danbury, Conn., and John Cole of Napa; six grandchildren; and one great granddaughter.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Berkeley League of Women Voters, 1414 University Ave., Suite D, Berkeley, 94702; or Northbrae Community Church.

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# West County school district attendance audited

By Alma D. Velázquez  
and John Simerman

A state audit report says the West Contra Costa Unified School District (WCCUSD) had a 97.9 percent attendance rate in 1998-99, a finding that could cost the district millions of dollars in pay-backs and future revenue.

The report by the state Controller's Office says the district over-estimated excused absences by nearly 24 percent for its elementary and middle schools, and 21.7 percent for high schools and continuation schools.

According to the audit, that gave the district \$2.3 million in unwarranted funding for fiscal year 1996-97, and an estimated \$2.1 million for the 1997-98 fiscal year. The audit, dated Oct. 29, recommends that error be factored into the formula that determines how much attendance money the district should receive in 1998-99 and beyond, a move that would cost the district millions each year.

It is not clear how much money, if any, the state will force the district to return, or exactly how much the district might lose in future revenue based on the audit's findings.

But district trustee Charles Ramsey called the potential impact "disastrous" for a district saddled with a tight budget and \$1.85 million in annual loan payments to the state from

a 1991 bailout.

"We're going to litigate this if we have to," Ramsey said. "We think we have compelling evidence to refute these charges. We're a school district. We shouldn't be treated as if we're criminals, as if we've milked the state. We're just trying to educate kids."

District Superintendent Gloria Johnston and officials with the state Controller's Office did not return several calls.

Last month, state officials said they were auditing the 32,000-student West Contra Costa district and a few others in Northern California in the first phase of a \$3 million statewide check into "illogically high" attendance numbers submitted to the state Department of Education.

A 1997 state law changed how school districts are paid for average daily attendance. Because of the change, the state adjusted its per-student revenue for each district, using 1996-97 as a baseline.

The state's allegation that the district was overpaid by more than \$2 million for the base year means a potential annual reduction around that amount "ad infinitum," said Paul Loya, the district's general counsel.

Loya said many of the audit's findings were "defective, not founded, or statistically without basis." When the district received a first draft, it provided the state with more information to ensure clarity, but that

proved futile, Loya said.

"It indicates to us that at this point, they don't seem to want to work with us," he said.

Johnston has notified the state of the district's intent to appeal, and staff is preparing for an appeal hearing, Loya said. The district has 60 days to appeal and a hearing can be held 90 days from the date of the appeal.

According to the audit, the state has warned the district in the past about what it considers insufficient attendance accounting methods.

"Although the district has repeatedly stated its intent to implement the State Controller's Office recommendations to improve its attendance accounting, the same deficiencies continue," the report says.

For each student who attends all 185 days of the school year, the state pays about \$6,000, said state Finance Department officials. Collectively, that attendance money accounts for 80 percent of the West Contra Costa district's \$198 million annual budget.

The audit sampled 1,152 excused absences at a selection of West County schools and determined that many of the cases lacked any documentation or critical evidence.

Under state guidelines, the district must account for each excused absence—for instance, a clear record of a parent's call into the school office with a staff signature and clear date—to receive daily funding for

that child.

While that may seem a simple procedure, it's not always easy in a district such as West Contra Costa, Loya said.

Many families don't have telephones and can't call, some parents aren't English speakers, others aren't aware of attendance rules, he said.

"If you go to some place like San Ramon or Moraga, where there are more traditional families, it's easy to make these things happen," he said. "We have many single parent families, homeless students, parents who are struggling with other things at home."

Several trustees said they felt the state was picking on the district.

Trustee Glen Price, who is part of a community group planning to lobby Gov. Gray Davis for relief from the \$21 million state loan, also pledged to fight the audit report.

"We're already going to the mat with the state on the reinvestment of our debt," said Price. "There's no way we can do this."

Marta Dragos, president of the United Teachers of Richmond, which represents the district's 1,900 teachers, said she felt the state was being "heavy-handed" with its audit.

"What help are we getting from the state? Where are they when we need support to implement programs?" she said. "We need to take a look and see if we're being unfairly punished."

## Happy anniversary to me

I don't remember the date my first Under Construction column appeared in the Alameda Journal. I should, but I don't. If I knew I'd lasted this long, I would have treated that column with greater deference. I would have framed it along with the newspaper's banner and the date.

But I didn't. I know it was a couple of weeks before the Rolling Stones' Bridges to Babylon concert at the Oakland Coliseum because I wrote about that. Sometime in October or November of 1997, I figure. Well I've missed October, but November is close enough. HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ME.

Originally my column was supposed to be a six-month deal, in one paper. I was a stand-in for another columnist who was taking a leave of absence. Six months came and went, and when she didn't reappear I became permanent. Last fall, the Piedmont and Montclairian started running my column too. Then came the El Cerrito Journal.

It's not exactly like being syndicated. All those papers have the same owner. But each new paper means more readers.

Two years. According to my calculations, that's about 100 columns.

That's a lot of words, a lot of stories and a lot of deadlines.

Some columns are better than others. Some are embarrassing, others I'm proud of. But there's not one that I wouldn't like to do a little more editing on.

There isn't much that I haven't mined for material. Sometimes it's my children. Sometimes it's my husband. Sometimes it's my news events. Most of the time it's something that happened to me.

I've written about going on a diet, dancing in a community theater production of "Anything Goes," changing the message on my answering machine and dressing my age. Everyone who reads my column knows that I can't spell, am addicted to the computer game Free Cell, got fired by my hairdresser and was the pencil-sharpener monitor in second grade.

Once a teacher at one of our local schools told me she felt uncomfortable talking to me.

"I know so much about you and you don't know anything about me," she said. Before she could level the playing field, I told her not to worry. She only knew what I wanted her to know.



RONNIE  
CAPLANE

Under  
Construction

My children are getting used to seeing their lives in print. They're not always happy about it, but they let me do it anyway. Besides their friends only read the sports section.

"You should thank me," I tell them. "Just think of my column as a family album. You'll never have to ask how I felt when eight days before you were supposed to leave for college you announced you wanted to take a year off, or when the police called at 2:37 a.m. to tell me you were rappelling off a freeway overpass."

Even my husband is getting used to the jokes about his 1985 Jaguar, the sleek lemon with the fancy hood ornament he is so devoted to.

The worst weeks are those when I can't come up with anything to write about. I rip through old files, notes, index cards and scraps of paper looking for an idea, a spark, a nugget I can expand on. "That's it," I think as I consider disappearing into the sunset like my predecessor. "The well has run dry. Now everyone will know I'm a fraud."

I toy with a do-it-yourself column. Type out 700 random words with instructions that readers should organize them any way they want.

Then I come up with something. I grunt and groan, skip dinner, struggle and suffer. Finally I produce something and wonder whether the pain is worth it.

Then I hear from a reader who doesn't get Henry James either, or whose house is overrun with used books, or who used to date a guy who hated his mother too. They tell me that I've written what they were thinking. I've even gotten an invitation to a stamp collecting club, literature on Jews for Jesus, and a bottle of shower gel from a hotel room in Hawaii.

Then I know that I'm being read and it is worth it.

So these are my reflections at year two. Now it's time to start worrying about what I'll write about next week.

## Toxic chemical shuts middle school gym

Preliminary air quality check finds elevated level of pesticide methylbromide

By Kate Darby Rauch

ALBANY — The gym at the new middle school has been closed by district officials after an air quality test showed a slightly elevated level of a toxic chemical.

More detailed test results were expected late Wednesday at Albany Middle School to determine whether the initial test was a fluke.

The first round of tests was conducted after school officials received persistent complaints about a strong

odor in the gym since the sixth-through eighth-grade campus opened in September.

"We certainly want to isolate what it (odor) is and get rid of it," Albany Unified School District Board member Bill Cain said Wednesday. "It's not something we want to see in a school environment. You don't fool around with these things, you really don't."

The district scheduled a special meeting last night to discuss the extended test results.

Tests of the gym's air conducted by an outside consultant a few weeks ago found a higher than expected level of the chemical methylbromide, a fumigant pesticide. The amount recorded was slightly higher than is considered safe by industrial hygienists consulted by the school, Cain said. It was lower, however, than the level Cal-OSHA considers safe for workers exposed during a 40-hour week, he said.

Locker rooms and areas adjacent to the gym had normal results.

Methylbromide usually dissipates in air over time. Toxic exposure is marked by acute symptoms such as vomiting, dizziness and headaches. Some studies show the chemical may also be carcinogenic.

After learning of the test results, the district closed the gym last week and ordered extensive follow-up testing.

Before the middle school opened, the district conducted a variety of air quality tests, using standard procedures for newly constructed schools, said Gary Mills, district superintendent. Nothing unusual was found, he said.

The new school had odors, but none seemed out of the ordinary, he said. "Any new facility has a certain smell, an odor, just like a new car."

The district had no knowledge methylbromide was used in construction, Mills said. He speculated

it could have been a component in the gym's subflooring, beneath the wood covering.

Trustee Martha Skinner said the school has had problems with ventilation and heating since it opened, many of which she associated with staff learning how to work new systems.

In addition to odors, a few students complained about headaches and dizziness at school, but these were not directly linked to the gym, said Principal Marla Stephenson.

Middle school students use the gym for physical education and school assemblies. It's also home to several Albany High School athletic teams. The high school is being rebuilt and has no gym.

Since the middle school gym was closed, students conduct physical education outdoors. On rainy days they study health, normally scheduled for later in the year, Stephenson said.

### IN BRIEF

Parcel tax exemption available for seniors

ALBANY — The Albany Unified School District wants seniors 65 or older to know they can apply for an exemption from the Albany Schools 1999 Parcel Tax, or Measure A.

The \$120 yearly parcel tax for Albany schools, which passed in June with 78 percent of the vote, is expected to generate \$1 million for educational programs in the 3,000-student district.

Exempted are residents who will be age 65 before July 1, 2000. Other exemptions are available based on disability or income.

District officials say seniors do not need to reapply if they have received the exemption. The deadline is Oct. 1. For an exemption form or questions, call Lydia Assia at 510-558-3755.

McCain official at Republicans meeting

RICHMOND — Jeff Elfont, representative from the John McCain

for president campaign, will be the guest speaker at tonight's meeting of the Kensington-El Cerrito Congress of Republicans at 7 p.m. at the Hacienda Restaurant, 12020 San Pablo Ave., Richmond.

Elfont, who has been involved in many local Contra Costa Republican campaigns, will talk about McCain's candidacy and cover a short review of McCain's new book "Faith of My Fathers." Elfont, a former vice chairman of the Contra Costa County Young Republicans, is a graduate of California State University, L.A. with a bachelor of science in accounting. He lives in San Ramon and is a stock broker with Schwab & Co. in Walnut Creek. He is also a reserve deputy sheriff with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department.

Dinner reservations are available by calling 524-5689. The cost is \$14 per person. Social hour is at 6:15 p.m.

King award nominations

MARTINEZ — The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors is invit-

See BRIEF, Page A7

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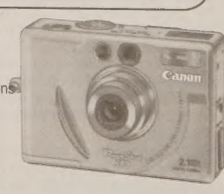
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# Opinion

## VIEWPOINT

## Preventive or excessive?

Recent incidents at Albany High School in Albany and Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland are hardly isolated. In fact, similar situations are being debated nationally, incidents of teen-age misbehavior that are met with swift and hard reaction intended to stem further misconduct that could escalate if unchecked. To many people, enough is enough, and such a response is long overdue. Many others believe that the isolated actions of a few are being blown out of proportion and are bringing an overly punitive response to all students for behavior that is little different than what has occurred in the past. Two members of the Hills Newspapers staff make their cases here, but we'd also like to hear your opinions. Write us at 5707 Redwood Road, Oakland CA 94619; fax us at 339-4066 or e-mail ctheadway@cttimes.com

## Draw a line before incidents become more severe

By Sean Yokomizo

The problem with drawing a line in the sand is knowing where to draw it. Judging when it is the proper moment to take a stand vs. showing flexibility is made even more difficult when any decision is sure to be second-guessed. Administrators at Bishop O'Dowd and Albany high schools recently came under criticism after they decided to cancel events following separate instances of inappropriate behavior. O'Dowd's winter ball got the ax after an incident involving drunk students acting inappropriately at a school dance. Albany put the brakes on several homecoming-related events after widespread vandalism targeted parade floats the previous year. Vandalism in Albany this year resulted in a hospital trip for one student who suffered an eye injury from an egg thrown by a fellow student. Fortunately, the injuries were not serious. Following the cancellation of the events at O'Dowd and Albany highs, some painted the decisions as overreactions to rambunctious, but all-together innocuous, teen-age behavior that resulted in no real harm. However, what many who argue this point fail to realize is that inappropriate behavior is the result of poor decision making, and holds the real potential for serious harm. Those urging school administrators to "lighten up" should bear in mind that high school students that choose to get drunk are breaking state law, and sending someone to the hospital with a projectile is assault.

The behavior in both cases is clearly inappropriate enough to warrant strict action and feckless second-guessing by arm-chair administrators is just as inappropriate. Decades of criminal statistics show a clear link between alcohol and violence. It is foolish to demand that administrators wait until someone gets hurt before they take a night of "just having fun" seriously. It is just as foolish to ask administrators to treat the incidents as isolated trouble caused by a few "bad apples."

The real question is the difference between prudence and overreac-

See PREVENTIVE, Page A12

## Punishing everyone for the acts of a few

By James Carter

There is a time in the lives of most North Americans where the joys of childhood and dreams about the future align in dissonant harmony. It is called high school. Such is the memory. Now the modern reality. High school is the testing ground of a new institutional theory more commonly experienced by teens than homecoming day or prom night. It is called zero tolerance. Zero tolerance is an individual approach to discipline especially designed for social offenders now universally applied to entire classes of high school students.

Zero tolerance has proven highly effective when administered to those society must keep on a tight leash. Such groups include — though are not limited to — men in boot camp learning how to survive on the battlefield, and convicted felons serving time in jail — except those with connections and large bank accounts.

LESSON I: Zero tolerance, or Lesson I, goes something like this: If one person in school makes a mistake or commits a crime, no matter how trivial or grave, everyone is punished equally.

Petty pranks and dangerous crimes are given equal weight under this brilliant new school of thought. And what both groups do — vandals or potentially violent criminals — have an equal impact on those guilty of attending their school.

For example: Say several carloads of teens race recklessly around town and egg everything in sight, a crime no previous generation ever dared commit. And picture this group of young people tossing eggs at a brand-new middle school gym, marking up the walls and striking one young woman in the eye. How should one apply the doctrine of zero tolerance under such circumstances?

Well, when hoodlums in Albany did just that, students at Albany High School were banned from using that gymnasium for the rest of the year, though they do not have one of their own since their school was condemned and leveled to the ground two years ago and counting.

LESSON II: Zero tolerance provides an introduction to other classes in practicality, including "the Modern Art of Problem Solving." Also known as "Bureaucracy I," the lesson plan goes something like this: If there are problems, no matter how large or small, shut everything down and keep your fingers crossed that such things will simply go away.

Example two: Imagine a group of teen-agers getting drunk before a school dance — again a crime never committed by their parents — then racing downtown to shout insults at people they have never met before in their lives. How should the maxim of zero tolerance be applied here?

At Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland, the authorities quickly applied Lesson II. They canceled the prom immediately. Imagine if a student

See EXCESSIVE, Page A12

## WHAT IF?

OUR SCHOOL CANCELLED THE HOMECOMING DANCE BECAUSE A FEW KIDS DID SOME STUPID STUFF. I GET GOOD GRADES. I PLAY SPORTS. I'M IN THE BAND. I VOLUNTEER IN THE COMMUNITY. WHY AM I BEING PUNISHED?



NOBODY CAN DRIVE THEIR CARS BECAUSE A FEW DRUNK DRIVERS KILLED SOME PEOPLE. I'VE NEVER HAD AN ACCIDENT. I PAY MY INSURANCE. I DRIVE DEFENSIVELY. WHY AM I BEING PUNISHED?



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Action threatens PG&E customers and workers

The community should know that an Administrative Law Judge for the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has recently denied PG&E the ability to fund critically needed maintenance of the community's gas and electric infrastructure.

This action is a direct threat to the community's reliable gas and electric service. This action also irresponsibly threatens the livelihoods of up to 3,500 deserving men and women working at PG&E.

This decision also sets California on a path for an outside large competitor to take over PG&E. PG&E's stock price has already dropped 25 percent as a result of the irresponsible actions, which makes PG&E an attractive takeover target. The new outside conglomerate will probably not match PG&E's commitment to customer service, levels of community support, or to its duty of emergency response.

As the wife of PG&E employee, I know many of the PG&E workers who responded heroically in the Oakland Hills fire and the Loma Prieta earthquake. Many have survived numerous downsizing already and I feel they deserve better treatment. If you feel this way also, please contact the Governor's office to let him know.

Raquel Leary  
El Cerrito

### Deserved thanks to Class of 2002

Our home was the homecoming "float"

house for the ECHS Class of 2002.

I wanted to share my family's experience with having the sophomore class in our back yard and house every day during the month of October.

Every day after school, the students would come to the house, make calls to parents and then work till the end of the day. Every day they cleaned up the work site.

The students all worked together on this one project without bickering or disagreeing. There were no attitudes.

By the end of the project, our yard was piled high with Styrofoam, paint cans, cardboard and plywood. Thirty students returned to our house after the afternoon homecoming parade to clean up.

By the time they were finished, it was if there had never been a building project going on. The back yard was spotless. Today I got a box of candy and a heartfelt thank you note from the Class of 2002.

We should be thanking them for being such a great, great group of young people.

The Steck-Bayat Family  
El Cerrito

### Let school board hear from you

On Tuesday, Nov. 23, Albany schools Superintendent Gary Mills will make a recommendation to the Albany school board as to whether he thinks there should be an armed police officer on the Albany High campus.

The Albany City Council has voted unanimously to support this program. The police chief, Larry Murdo, has vigorously promoted

it. Two students from the 800-plus student body are in favor. The principal and vice principal like it. That's 10 people.

But what about the other 798-plus students? What about the middle school students going to the high school in the next few years?

What about the parents who actually believe in the current trends, like conflict resolution and peaceful means? Who, when they say "use words," mean it? Who think that a counselor should come before a cop?

What about the citizens of Albany who so generously support the schools, but believe a gun isn't about education, but about violence?

If you think our children deserve the best, not a quick, cheap and potentially dangerous response to issues needing careful attention, call Gary Mills, call the school board. Let them know.

Julie Winkelsch  
Albany

### We will miss you, Beth

Another great loss for the City of El Cerrito—Beth Bartke is moving on after 16 years with the city.

As a frequent visitor to city offices, I've been unfailingly impressed with Beth's professionalism, judgement and good humor.

Working closely with her on community projects like Earth Day was such a pleasure.

Beth always knew exactly how to get things done, and went well beyond the call of duty.

I'm sure her many other fans join me in wishing her well in her new career, but we will sure miss her in El Cerrito.

Lori Dahl  
chair, Sustainable El Cerrito

## Marin School making a lasting tribute to Diane Lohman

By Amy Chen

She had the unique ability to change the world through one child at a time. She was a hero in her own right. Now she is being remembered by those who knew her best.

Her name was Diane Lohman, the beloved mother, wife, teacher, colleague, as well as a friend, to so many within Albany's borders.

As the second anniversary of her death from an unexpected stroke nears, the people who were fortunate enough to know Lohman are honoring her with a tile wall to be built at the entrance of the Marin Elementary School library.

As a fitting tribute to a woman who liked Winnie the Pooh almost as much as she loved to read, the wall will serve as a lasting reminder of her endearing ability to

touch people's lives.

"I didn't see it directly all the time but I could picture her over there," Albany High physics teacher Rich Lohman says of his late wife. "She had such a love for teaching. She loved being a mother first, but when our two daughters got older she transferred that love to other people's kids."

In 11 years as a fourth-grade teacher, Diane was known to bake cookies for her colleagues almost as often as she peacefully mediated disputes in her classroom.

"From the very beginning, you just wanted to learn from her," explains former student and current AHS senior Andrew Hara. "Everything about her was fair. She wanted everyone to get along," he says, recalling how he was an intimidated fourth-grader visiting the high school on a field trip with her

class not too long ago.

From Whitney Houston to classical music, Lohman recognized the importance of the arts and sought to expose her students to it.

Every day after lunch, Lohman reserved some time for them to unwind through creative writing.

Combined with her talent of making history come alive, this simple activity made Lohman a clear favorite among her young students.

As AHS junior Natalie Spautz sentimentally describes, Lohman used to transform her fourth-grade classroom into an old-fashioned schoolroom for a few days. Inspired by Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Little House on the Prairie" books, Lohman took her students back in time as she passed out individual slate boards substituting for paper and chalk instead of pen-

### Objects in mirror are closer than they appear

By Amy Chen

For another project called Bay cho Days, one-time instructional aide and current AHS art teacher Sarah Samonsky remembers Lohman as a perennial folk dancer volunteer. On overnight adventures aboard a ship docked in the San Francisco Bay or under the stars while camping at Point Bonita, Lohman was said to enjoy the excursions as much as her students. "She loved to have kids experience trips like that to get closer

See CHEN, Page A1

GENERAL MANAGER • RUTH MARICICH

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# THE JOURNAL

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787



# Doctors Medical Center plans to shut costly emergency room

Center plans to expand facilities in San Pablo; residents worry change could hurt the critically ill

By Carolyn McMillan

PINOLE — Doctors Medical Center in Pinole will no longer offer emergency room services or an intensive care unit under a plan announced Tuesday to consolidate services at its sister campus in San Francisco at its sister campus in San Francisco.

A similar plan to realign services was put forward three years ago, when Tenet HealthSystem, its for-profit owner, first leased the financially troubled Brookside Hospital in San Pablo. City leaders and many in the community opposed the plan, which was eventually put on hold.

Since then, the San Pablo hospital has undergone \$17.6 million in upgrades, including the addition of 11 beds in the emergency room, which officials at Doctors Medical Center said should help reassure West County residents that the change will not diminish access to quality care.

The Pinole facility has eight emergency room beds. "Some individuals are occasion-

ally reluctant to come to San Pablo, but once there, I've gotten a tremendously positive response," said Gary Sloan, chief executive officer of Doctors Medical Center. "We know change is difficult and there are community members who will be reluctant, but in the long term it is good health planning and good health care."

Sloan said the plan, which is set to take effect in March, will improve patient care by allowing each of the campuses to specialize.

The center in Pinole will downgrade its emergency room to an urgent-care facility, expand outpatient surgical services and continue to provide long-term convalescent care and substance abuse services.

Hospital officials said they have begun seeking state approval to build an expanded intensive care unit at San Pablo, which will add 14 critical care beds to the current 30. That is the same number of ICU beds that will be lost at Pinole, but the expansion could take roughly 18 months to complete.

In the meantime, officials said Pinole will maintain its license to provide critical care so it can handle the extra capacity in the case of a catastrophic event.

Officials estimated that 20 or so jobs would be eliminated in the consolidation, none of which deal with patient care.

The announcement comes as hospitals around the Bay Area undergo mergers and consolidations aimed at improving the bottom line in a climate of higher drug costs, shorter patient stays and cuts in federal reimbursements for treating Medicare patients.

Those economic realities did not make the news any more palatable to some residents or hospital staff.

"If you need emergency services, especially with the number of accidents on the roadways out here, you need to get to a hospital right away. Not one that's five miles away," said Pinole resident Donna Cox, whose son was being treated Tuesday afternoon at the Pinole emergency room. "Every minute counts when

you're injured. We need more emergency rooms, if anything, not fewer."

Emergency room nurse Carol Harned said the change worried her, too, because most of the patients who are sick enough to be admitted to the hospital haven't come by ambulance.

If those residents don't realize they need to take serious conditions to San Pablo, it could mean losing precious treatment time.

"We will be an urgent care clinic. If someone comes in here with chest pains, we will call 911," Harned said. "They'll be wasting a whole lot of time."

Sloan said an aggressive campaign to educate patients and residents about the changes should mitigate such problems. Roughly 70 percent of the patients now seen in Pinole have health problems that can easily be addressed by an urgent care clinic, he said.

Dr. William Walker, director of Contra Costa's Health Services Department, said that if Tenet follows through with plans to add critical

care beds in San Pablo, it will go a long way toward mitigating his concerns that the change will translate into fewer ICU beds in West County.

It also helps that Kaiser Permanente Richmond expects to expand its emergency room from stand-by status to a full service facility next spring.

"In the end, this is a for-profit hospital, that makes for-profit decisions. And the local agencies don't have much impact on the decisions they make," Walker said.

"We're always concerned when a hospital closes. It takes one more resource out of the community."

Under a new state law, officials with Contra Costa Emergency Medical Services have 60 days to assess how the proposal will affect hospital care in the county and report their findings to the state Department of Health Services, which must approve Tenet's plan.

The county must also hold a public meeting to discuss the change. Pinole Mayor Maria Alegria said

she looks forward to participating in that meeting because the loss of the community emergency room leaves unanswered questions about how it might affect her community.

"My initial concern is that (Pinole officials) weren't part of the decision-making," Alegria said. "There's never been a process for us to be at the table to talk about the impacts."

It is unlikely that the county impact assessment or the public hearings could derail the realignment at Doctors Medical Center, said Lynn Baskett, regional vice president for the Hospital Council of Northern California.

The government is understandably leery of telling a business that it is required to provide services, without providing a means to pay for it.

"It's not so flush with money it's going to fund services just because they're nice to have," Baskett said.

## Deadline for luncheon meeting is today

A reminder to those attending Monday's luncheon meeting at Lit-A-Bite Restaurant & Tavern to RSVP by today to chamber staff at 433-7040. The entire choice is Mexican plate or shrimp salad at \$10 per person. Our speaker will be Chamber member Thom Stark of Stark Realities, a computer network consulting firm, who will speak on "Y2K or Y not."

### Congratulations, candidates

The chamber would like to congratulate Janet Abelson and Kathie Perka on their election to the City Council on Nov. 2. With both pledging to work with the current council members, we too, look forward to working closely in the years ahead with the new council in their efforts to improve the quality of life for everyone in this community. Look-

ing to the future is the key, with lots on the horizon to be accomplished to resolve the many tough issues facing our city.

### Entertainment 2000

Entertainment 2000 books are still available at the chamber office, 10848 San Pablo Ave., still at a low cost of \$40, with profits going toward chamber operating funds.

The book features many two-for-one restaurant and fast-food offers, in addition to motel and hotel savings and much more.

### Quake readiness essential

"Earthquake Preparedness: A Key to Small Business Survival" is a booklet available for members to use as guidelines for any business. Damaging earthquakes are inevitable in Northern California, and experience

shows that even a moderate quake will shutter many commercial enterprises and cause hardship for others.

Memories of Loma Prieta, now 10 years past, have faded, but the need to prepare now is critical given the latest probabilities geologists have calculated for the next major seismic event.

Hazards include injury, damage and disruption of business operations for a long period of time, according to the Bay Area Regional Earthquake Preparedness project.

The Red Cross is currently looking for shelter managers to take a free class beginning Nov. 30.

Call John at 558-0755, or Greg Mock at 307-4400, for more details.

### On the mend

Chamber Manager Sewall Glin-

### El Cerrito Chamber

By Pat Berndt

ternick is regaining his strength after his Oct. 6 triple-bypass surgery and Oct. 10 carotid-artery surgery.

His regimen of daily walking has increased to three blocks each day to help him on his road to recovery.

It is hoped he will be at his desk and typewriter sometime in December, when this column will return to normal.

Also on the road to recovery is V.G. White, owner of V.G. White Jeweler in the El Cerrito Plaza, who underwent quadruple-bypass surgery a few days after Sewall. He is home and doing well.

tend, says Engemann.

But for AHS senior Erin Danielson, the decision of what to draw is a tough one.

"I'll have to think about that," Danielson says. "But I remember always wanting to go to the parent-teacher meetings because she always said something really nice and made me feel really good. She always made us feel like we weren't just little kids. She made me feel special."

For those of us who were not lucky enough to know Lohman, we are left to wonder how our own lives might have been enriched if only we had. As many will agree, those are the saddest words of all.

Amy Chen, editor of *The Cougar*, the student newspaper at Albany High School, has agreed to write a periodic column for *The Journal*.

**A tile-making session is also scheduled at Marin on Dec. 3, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Anyone who would like to make a tile in Lohman's memory is invited to attend.**

day through January.

A tile-making session is also scheduled at Marin on Friday, Dec. 3, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Anyone who would like to make a tile in Lohman's memory is invited to at-

## Chen

FROM PAGE A1

history," recalls Rich Lohman. "But of course, you can never go back in history."

Rich Lohman, who confesses to being able to talk about his wife for days, has already made a tile for the mural. Once it is fired and glazed, his tile will join a mosaic of memories put together to honor a woman loved and missed by so many.

As friend and fourth-grade Marin teacher Chris Engemann points out, "Together the tiles make this wall that leaves behind a little piece of the connection to Diane."

From smiley faces to rainbows and musical notes, the colorful glazed squares reflect Lohman's vi-

brance, a brilliance reputed as second to none.

"She once told me that she couldn't believe she got paid to be a teacher," reminisces Samonsky, who joined a women's group with Lohman. "She was so cheerful and so generous. If you needed something and she had it, she would give it to you."

Through the tile wall, recipients of Lohman's generosity now have the chance to return the favor. Started last year as a way to preserve her memory for future generations, the wall is expected to be finished in the spring.

In the meantime, Lohman's former students who currently attend Albany High will be able to add their own memories to the wall.

PTA volunteers who sponsor the Senior Tile Wall have designated a table on the Albany High School campus for tile-making every Fri-

## Brief

FROM PAGE A5

ing nominations for "Humanitarian of the Year" to be awarded at the 22nd Annual "I Have A Dream" birthday commemoration for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the commemoration will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 18, in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 651 Pine St., Martinez, at 11 a.m.

The annual commemoration and award ceremony is a special event each year recognizing a county citizen whose contributions and accomplishments for others embody the humanitarian spirit of the Rev. Dr. King's life and work.

A nomination form is available from the Community Services De-

partment, 2520 Stanwell Drive, Suite 200, Concord, CA 94520 or by calling (925) 646-5910.

Nomination forms and required description of the nominee are due no later than 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 17, to the Community Services Department, 2520 Stanwell Dr., Suite 200, Concord, CA 94520.

### New instruments for school

Fifth and sixth grade students at Bayview Elementary School are the recipients of 15 new violins and two violas from the Northern California McDonald's owner-operators and the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation. The new instruments were received at Bayview over the summer break by Principal Andrea Colfack, her-

self a musician and music educator. The instruments were assigned this fall to students who began stringed instrument instruction last year with Miriam Spross, full-time instrumental music teacher for the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

Bayview fourth grade teacher Gail Mendes and Spross, who teaches strings at Bayview, Chavez, Downer, Hercules and Lake elementary schools, applied for the musical instrument grant to supplement the limited number of instruments available to students on loan from the school district.

Thanks to the grant, Spross was able to assign Bayview's share of district-owned violins to 19 beginning students in the fourth and fifth grades.

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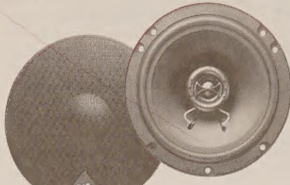
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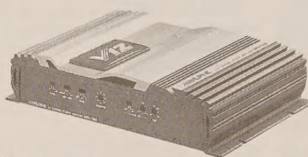


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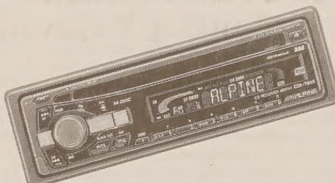
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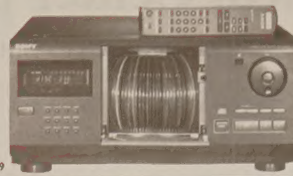


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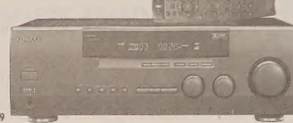


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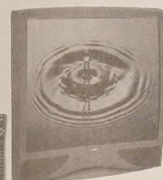
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## ALBANY PTA NEWS

By Kay Weinstein

## Albany PTA Council

■ **Director of Curriculum Marianne Camp** needs parents to serve on the following committees; if interested, email or call 559-6620.

Daytime Meetings TBA, Curriculum Specific Committees for Math K-5 and Social Studies K-8.

Nov. 22, PTA Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., AMS Library.

■ **ATTENTION: SCRIP BUYERS.** All Albany PTAs have now converted to electronic scrip for Safeway and Andronico's; we will still sell paper scrip for Lucky's /Albertsons and Natural Grocery. eScrip is an electronic scrip program where a supporter registers any or all of one's MasterCard, VISA, Discover, American Express, ATM, Debit or grocery loyalty (Safeway Club) cards for a \$10 annual fee. Supporters then use the registered cards when paying for merchandise at participating merchants.

The merchant donates a percentage of the sale to your PTA. For \$10, you can sign up one school. If you have children in different schools and wish to split the profits between schools, it will cost an additional \$5 per school per year to cover accounting costs. Better yet, ask a relative or friend to sign up for the other school, and you won't have to split the profits! To register your cards with eScrip, call 800-400-7878, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. For information, check out the Web site at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) or call Linda Okamoto at 525-6782.

Following are the Albany school numbers for eScrip: Albany High School 138925439; Albany Middle School 136556344; MacGregor High School 139258791; Marin Elementary School 138951780; Cornell Elementary School 136926069; Ocean View Elementary School 138951432.

## Albany High School

■ **SCRIP Orders:** Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip (see above). We are selling Lucky/Albertsons and Natural Grocery scrip. Call Linda Okamoto at 525-6782 or Belinda Lum at 528-2429. E-mail Linda at [belinda@pachell.net](mailto:belinda@pachell.net).

■ Nov. 20, "Tom Jones," 8 p.m., AHS Little Theater. Reservations: 559-6550, #4125.

■ Nov. 21, "Tom Jones," 5 p.m.,

AHS Little Theater, for reservations call 559-6550, ext. 4125.

■ Nov. 20-21, Cody's Books Fund-raiser (Cody's will donate 20 percent of your net purchases, including gift certificates, to AHS PTA). Stores at 2454 Telegraph Ave., or 1730 Fourth St. in Berkeley. Send or bring receipts to AHS Main Office, 603 Key Route Blvd., Albany 94706.

■ Dec. 2, Instructional Improvement Committee Meeting, 7 p.m., AHS Room 53.

■ Dec. 6, PTA Meeting, 7:15 p.m., AHS Library.

## Albany Middle School

■ **SCRIP Orders:** Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip (see above). We are selling Lucky/Albertsons and Natural Grocery scrip. Call Karen Moss at 526-2018 or Linda Okamoto at 525-6782. E-mail Linda at [cho.pml@cho.org](mailto:cho.pml@cho.org).

■ Nov. 20-21, Cody's Books Fund-raiser (Cody's will donate 20 percent of your net purchases, including gift certificates, to AMS PTA). Stores at 2454 Telegraph Ave. or 1730 Fourth St. in Berkeley. Send or bring receipts to AMS Office, 1259 Brighton Ave., Albany 94706.

■ Nov. 30, Parenting an Adolescent: What's Happening to Your Child?, a parent education evening featuring Family Therapist Ilene L. Dillon, at 7:15 p.m., AMS Library. Questions may be submitted to the speaker before the meeting at or fax 510-223-4171.

■ Dec. 1, Sixth grade Family Potluck, 6-8 p.m., AMS Atrium (outside the library). Please watch for details that will be sent home with your student.

■ Dec. 4, AMS Parents Forum: Your and Your Adolescent, 10 a.m.-Noon, AMS Library. Join other parents over coffee and treats to discuss concerns about parenting an adolescent.

■ Dec. 6, Site Council Meeting, 6 p.m.

## Cornell Elementary School

■ **SCRIP sales:** Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip (see above). Lucky/Albertsons, Natural Grocery and Berkeley Bowl SCRIP for sale Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:15-8:45, and Wednesday after school.

■ Dec. 8, PTA Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

## Marin Elementary School

■ **SCRIP** for sale Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings before school, at both early and late bird times, and Wednesday after school. Orders can be placed in office at any time. Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip (see above).

■ Nov. 20-21, Cody's Books Fund-raiser (Cody's will donate 20 percent of your net purchases, including gift certificates, to Marin PTA. Stores at 2454 Telegraph Ave., or 1730 Fourth St. in Berkeley. Turn in receipts to Marin office.

■ **Reminder:** Remember to save and turn in General Mills boxtops for education to office.

■ Dec. 9, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Marin Multi-Purpose Room.

## Ocean View Elementary School

■ **SCRIP** for sale Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings before school on playground. Ask for Kim Denton. Safeway and Andronico's scrip must be purchased from eScrip (see above).

■ Dec. 2, PTA Meeting, 7 p.m., Ocean View Library, childcare available.

## AUSD Board of Education

■ Nov. 23, Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room. Vote on School Resource Officer (armed police officer) at Albany High School.

■ Nov. 30, Special Meeting: A Study Session with AUSD Legal Counsel providing an update on suspension and expulsion procedures, 7 p.m., Cornell Multi-Purpose Room.

## AUSD district calendar

■ Nov. 25-26, Thanksgiving Holidays NO SCHOOL.

■ **ATTENTION SENIORS:** If you will be 65 before July 1, 2000, you can apply for exemption from Albany Schools 1999 Parcel Tax Measure A. The deadline is Dec. 1, 1999. Applications available at the AUSD Service Center, 904 Talbot Ave. Call Lydia Assia at 558-3755.

Items? Call Kay Weinstein at 525-0363 or e-mail [kayweinstein@yahoo.com](mailto:kayweinstein@yahoo.com).

# Holiday Boutique

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## AEF fills 28 grant requests

More than 1,500 children will benefit from field trip grants awarded to Albany school teachers by the Albany Education Foundation (AEF) for 1999-2000 school year. A total of 28 grants for children of all ages were given to teachers throughout the district totaling to \$3,898.50.

Every proposal was granted at least partial funding out of the total of \$9,815.00 that was requested.

Grants ranged from \$28 for a trip to Albany Bowl by children from the Middle School to \$300 for a trip to the Sacramento Capital by the senior class at Albany High. Other trips planned include a visit to Mrs. Grossman's Sticker Factory by Ocean View third-graders, an overnight excursion to the Old Sierra Camp by Cornell fifth-graders and a trip to the Sea

Training Institute by an eighth-grade class.

High school teacher Dave De Hart will again be leading about half of the senior class on the trip Sacramento.

De Hart said "This is a great opportunity for the students to meet their legislators. Last year they met with Dion Aroner and Don Perata and they toured the Capital and the Vietnam Memorial. Both Dion Aroner and Don Perata were very generous with their time spending almost two hours with the students. We anticipate another great trip."

This is the first year that field trips were separated out from the mini-grants as a separate category. In the past, many of the mini-grant proposals have been for field trips. Mini-grants for classroom enrichment are currently being reviewed

by the AEF Grant Committee, and mini-grants will be awarded later this month.

The Albany Education Foundation was founded in 1995 to provide additional resources to students in the Albany Public School District. In addition to the field trip grants, the foundation gives mini-grants to teachers for classroom enrichment, and has distributed block grants of up to \$5,000 for districtwide programs. An Endowment Fund to ensure long-term support of Albany schools has also been established by the foundation.

Tax deductible contributions may be made to the Albany Education Foundation offices at 1320 Solano Ave., Suite 102, Albany, CA 94706. For information, call the Albany Education Foundation at 524-7797.

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## Talking to 'Turkey Central'



MARTIN SNAPP

Snapp Shots

Thanksgiving is less than a week away, which means it's time to check in with the turkey economists at the Butterball Turkey Talk-Line (aka "Turkey Central") for a not-so-nostalgic look at the dumbest turkey preparation questions of the millennium.

Two breathtakingly stupid questions from last year lead the list: "A California man who was having difficulty defrosting the turkey" and "A Florida man who wanted to know if the family's 22-pound turkey was still safe to eat after his children took a bubble bath with it. They join such clueless classics

The Virginia man who asked, "How do you thaw a fresh turkey?" The California restaurateur who wanted to know "How do you roast a turkey for a vegetarian menu?" The Texas woman who was puzzled about why her turkey showed signs of roasting after being in the oven for more than three hours.

Using her a number of questions, the Talk-Line staffer finally asked, "Did you remember to turn the oven on?" Oops!

The Kentucky woman whose pet cat jumped into the turkey's cavity and couldn't get out. The frantic woman tried pulling the cat out and shaking the bird, but nothing worked. The Talk-Line staffer suggested carefully cutting the opening of the turkey wider.

Fido was freed!

The nervous suitor who wanted to propose to his girlfriend over Thanksgiving dinner and wanted to know if it was safe to bake the engagement ring into the stuffing. Answer: Slip it into the stuffing before serving, instead, and serve it with lots of carrots.

The golf nut from Florida who called "Turkey Central" for turkey hitting tips while waiting to tee off on the 14th hole.

The Montreal teacher who called the Talk-Line on behalf of

her classroom to inquire whether turkeys have belly buttons. (I hope she didn't teach biology!)

The young man in Minnesota who wanted to know if he could keep his turkey frozen en route to his parents' house by strapping it to the luggage rack. (Answer: As long as the temperatures are below freezing outside, why not?)

The Mississippi woman who lost her wedding ring inside her stuffed turkey and wanted to know if the bird was still safe to eat. (Answer: Yes, as long as you find it before your husband does.)

The man from Florida (where else?) who wanted to know if he could use suntan oil to baste his turkey.

The West Coast woman who took her turkey preparation to extremes by scrubbing her bird with bleach, then called the Talk-Line to ask how to clean off the bleach. (Answer: Don't even try. Dump the turkey and start all over.)

The Ohio woman who wanted to know how long it would take to roast her turkey. The Talk-Line home economist asked how much the bird weighed. "I don't know," said the woman. "It's still running around outside."

The Alabama man who discovered a turkey from 1969 in his father's freezer and wanted to know if a 30-year-old bird was still safe to eat. (Answer: Probably, but it wouldn't taste very good.)

The high-school wrestler who was roasting his first turkey but couldn't get the hang of how to fold the wings under the bird. After several attempts to explain it to him over the phone, the Talk-Line staffer finally got him to understand when she said, "It's just like putting the turkey in a full Nelson."

And our all-time winner: The truck driver who planned to cook his Thanksgiving turkey on the engine of his 16-wheeler and called on his CB radio to ask, "Will it cook faster if I drive faster?"

And if you need help yourself, give Turkey Central a call at 1-800-323-4848. It will be open on Thanksgiving from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Just who should we thank for Thanksgiving, anyway? Answer: Sarah Hale. She was the Helen Gurley Brown of her day, the editor of the popular woman's maga-

Saint Mary's College of California

## The Saint Mary's Gaels

### Battle the UC Davis Aggies This Saturday

Come out to Saint Mary's College this Saturday, October 16 at 1 pm and cheer on the Gaels as they take on the UC Davis Aggies. Bring the family with the Contra Costa Times Newspaper Family Ticket\* at the reduced price of \$20.00 for 2 adults and 2 children and watch the exciting contest between these two teams!

For ticket information call 925-631-4392.

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(\*Just bring this ad to the gate for reduced admission)

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Opponent	Date	Time
Colgate	10/23	1pm
*Holy Cross	10/30	1pm
Southern Utah	11/6	1pm
Cal Poly	11/13	1pm

\*Gaelfest and Homecoming Game



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John Antoni, Senior Defensive End

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Location  
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Ticket Prices  
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## NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## STARS "R" US

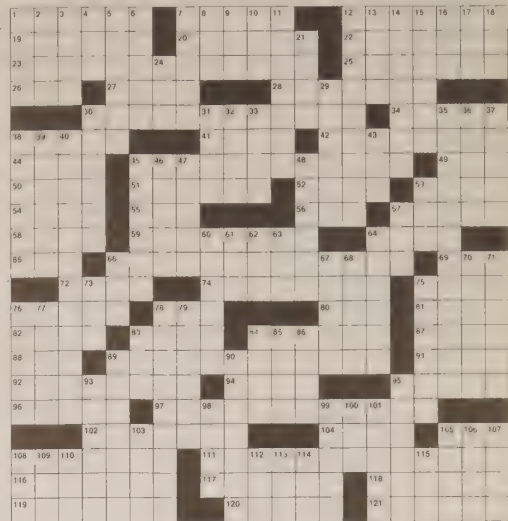
BY LLOYD E. POLLET / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

## ACROSS

- 1 See above  
7 Refuse  
12 Less cool  
19 Three-time hockey M.V.P.  
20 End product  
22 Artist known for his street scenes of Paris  
23 Actor getting bad press?  
25 Destroy a person  
26 Light opening?  
27 Gymnast's perch  
28 Barely beat  
30 Actress who's cold?  
34 Karate schools  
38 Scriptures volume  
41 Suffix added to large numbers  
42 Son, sometimes  
44 They may be picked out  
45 Actress with punishing roles?  
49 Sack  
50 Tool points  
51 Begin liking  
52 Grampuses  
53 "The — the limit!"  
54 Seconds  
55 Article in  
56 Fan sound  
57 Slip-up  
58 [Boo-hoo!]  
59 "Min and Bill"  
64 Oscar winner  
68 Manilow song setting

## DOWN

- 1 Fun! und drei  
2 Miss Marple's discovery  
3 Eastern royal  
4 His #4 was retired  
5 Big step up from the bleachers  
6 Gave a dam?  
7 It may be organized  
8 Roaster, perhaps  
9 "What would you like to know?"  
10 Suffix with hand or fist  
11 Strips blubber  
12 Urbanite's vacation spot  
13 Langston Hughes poem  
14 More dignified  
15 Ford failures  
16 France's Belle —  
17 "Boola Boola" singer  
18 Ex-Yankee Guidry  
21 The Hambletonian, e.g.  
24 Heyerdahl craft  
29 Lady of Spain  
30 Jackson and James  
31 Its business is growing  
32 Laughfest  
33 Words after "yes"  
35 Actor with a special way of talking?  
36 Initials, maybe  
37 Common thing  
38 Bunco artist  
39 Firebird  
40 Actress who does the twist?  
43 Julio, e.g.  
45 It had the earliest parliament on the European continent  
46 They're sometimes split  
47 Textile trademark  
48 Like some love affairs  
53 Forest runner  
57 Archaic attention-getters  
60 Aquanaut's base  
61 Dict. listing  
62 "Saving Private Ryan" craft: Abbr.  
63 Tampa-Orlando dir.  
64 Some liqueurs  
66 Punster  
67 British surgeon Sir James  
68 Chopin piece



- 70 Three-time placer in the 1978 Triple Crown  
71 "Free" people  
73 Station closing?  
75 Comedian, e.g.  
76 Framed  
77 Actor Reeves  
78 Feldspar variety  
79 Fremont National Forest site  
83 Midwest city, on scoreboards  
84 Mark for life  
85 Assam silkworm  
86 Screwballer Hubbell  
89 Sound system components  
90 Unearthly  
93 Peace of mind  
95 Scribe  
98 Gulf of Finland feeder  
99 Registration datum  
100 Demier — writer  
101 "Endymion" author  
103 Power stats  
105 "Here is Your War" author  
106 One on the move  
107 Stratagems  
108 Early third-century date  
109 First or second, e.g.: Abbr.  
110 Capp diminutive  
112 Color TV pioneer  
113 Informal British address  
114 Sussex suffix  
115 Tad's dad

zine, "Godey's Lady's Book."

Contrary to popular belief, the Pilgrims did not make a big deal about Thanksgiving. They observed it in years when the harvest was good; but when the harvest was bad, they just shined it on.

In the following years, Thanksgiving fell into further disuse. Thomas Jefferson even went so far as to condemn it as an "inappropriate" holiday for the new republic.

But in 1827, Sarah Hale embarked on a one-woman crusade to revive Thanksgiving. For the next four decades, she wrote scores of editorials and hundreds of letters to governors, ministers, editors and each incumbent president, asking that the last Thursday in November be set aside "to offer to God our tribute of joy and gratitude for the blessings of the year."

Finally, in 1863, President Abra-

ham Lincoln took her up on it. He wanted to celebrate the recent Union victory at Gettysburg, so he issued a proclamation setting aside the last Thursday in November as a national holiday.

And what do we have to be thankful for? Some are grateful for

our prosperity. Others are grateful that we are at peace.

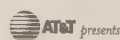
But personally, I agree with the great turn-of-the-century humorist, Mr. Dooley. "The holiday was founded by the Puritans to give thanks for being preserved from the Indians," he said. "And we keep

it to give thanks for being preserved from the Puritans."

Phone Martin Snapp at 510-273-9039; write him c/o Hills Newspapers, 5707 Redwood Road, Oakland, CA 94619; or e-mail him at [catman@california.com](mailto:catman@california.com).



Oakland East Bay Symphony  
Michael Morgan, Music Director



AT&T presents Ode to Joy

Lift your spirits just before Thanksgiving with Beethoven's glorious *Symphony No. 9*. Also on this special concert, Mozart's only concerto for two pianos.

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Free Pre-Concert Lecture by Joseph Kerman 7:05pm  
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Mark Anderson &  
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LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN  
Symphony No. 9 "Ode to Joy"  
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Sarah Blaze, Mezzo  
John Bellemer, Tenor  
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## Signs

FROM PAGE A1

"This is not what they sent to us," Good said.

During the lengthy and often perplexing debate, council members considered several other amendments to the municipal code based upon recommendations filtered down through the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Zoning Commission Review Commission, staff personnel and the council itself during a long and often grueling process.

Zoning Commission member Evan Flavell expressed concern that a number of the proposed changes might remove public oversight from the administrative process. However, most of the proposed changes were shelved.

Such matters included the ability of staff to make administrative decisions concerning the overall regulation and design of signs, public notification regarding proposed additions to property, and the size of

trucks allowed to make neighborhood deliveries to homes where business is conducted.

City Administrator Daren Fields discussed the difficulties inherent in code revisions.

"Incredibly complex issues" are involved when code changes are made, he said. "Every time you pull a string, everything comes flying back at you."

### Chief Operator winner

Prior to the council debate, Thomssen presented Kenora Robinson a plaque for placing third in the Chief Operator teen-driver songwriting contest. Robinson, a recent graduate of MacGregor High School, wrote a moving piece warning of the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol and failing to use seat belts.

Councilman Allan Maris, who once taught Robinson, praised her success, the Chief Operator Program and Albany Schools in general. He then played Robinson's song to the audience, which listened with rapt attention to the tender words and lilting melody.

### Other news

■ A joint work session between the council and the Park and Recreation Commission is scheduled for Nov. 29, 6-7:30 p.m., in the council chambers. The meeting will discuss improvements to Middle School Park.

■ Thomssen announced city offices will be closed Nov. 25 and Nov. 26 in observance of Thanksgiving.

■ Evan Flavell urged the council to reconsider a crosswalk slated to be painted on Buchanan Street near Ocean View Park. He told the council the proposed crosswalk was located at a dangerous spot, one where the Traffic and Safety Commission had recommended a traffic light be erected.

■ Attorney David Arkin presented what he called an update concerning the sale of Golden Gate Fields. He also suggested the race track's new owner, may have abandoned plans to build a card room there, though he wasn't willing to bet on it.

■ The next City Council meeting is scheduled for Nov. 29, beginning at 8 p.m.

## Excessive

FROM PAGE A6

from that school hurt someone, or worse. The school might be permanently closed and even razed. After all, students there would all be equally to blame.

## Preventive

FROM PAGE A6

tion, and the bottom line is that strict actions are overreactions only until something terrible happens.

School officials are expected to take action aimed at preventing bad

**GRADUATION:** The final lesson taught by the zero tolerance course is particularly relevant for today's "troubled" youth. It teaches teens there are absolutely no reasons whatsoever for acting responsibly, especially when one is trying to have fun.

The maxim reads: Regardless of what you and your best friends do,

behavior, as well as the ultimate consequences of that behavior, but are decry for overreacting when the steps they take inconvenience parents and students.

Rest assured, however, that if the steps taken are not enough to head off a real problem, teachers and administrators are left to twist in the wind on the gallows of public opinion.

all will be equally punished. In short, it is a reaffirmation of Lesson 1: until others are proven guilty, which case, years later, your generation may be the one to hang out on the streets.

Before parents start playing violins for last year's events, they should roll up their sleeves and get involved in schools to create an environment where inappropriate behavior is dressed by positive peer pressure, parental responsibility, and community support before there is time to draw a line in the sand.

## Memorial

FROM PAGE A1

good thing to see cities embracing their veterans because it's a simple thing," said veteran Johnny W. Poon of Hercules, who attended the dedication with his daughter. "A lot of people don't know how important it is to say thank you, but it's important to us. It doesn't have to be anything big and fancy."

El Cerrito High School teacher, artist and Vietnam War veteran Steve Temple, 52, was overcome with emotion while speaking at the dedication.

Temple designed the memorial and personally chose the centerpiece stone. He thanked the memorial com-

mittee and the citizens of El Cerrito "for their outpouring of generosity and making this project a reality."

Temple had to stop for a few moments when remembering his father, who spent two years as a prisoner of war, a brother who served with him in Vietnam and "two friends who did not return with me."

"We thank you, oh Lord, for the brave men and women who have given their all at the noonday of their lives that we might enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," said VFW Post No. 913 Chaplain Elmer Silva in his invocation. "Oh Lord, bless our country with peace and prosperity."

Toward the end of the official ceremonies, a man sat on one of the benches of the newly dedicated memo-

rial. He was a nondescript fellow, nothing apparently special about him.

With his pot belly and lived-in face, he looked like someone's grandpa or older uncle. As he sat on the bench, his pant legs rose a bit and an observer might notice his ankles looked funny. On closer look, you could see he had no ankles.

Both of the man's lower legs were narrow round poles with shoes attached. His lower legs and feet were prosthetic.

Shortly after the ceremony, the man walked alone to his car on Kearney Street and drove off. He didn't stay for the cake and punch.

On his head, he wore a cap with the initials "DAV." The letters stand for "Disabled American Veteran."

## Study: Bay Area traffic is bad

In what should come as little surprise to Interstate 80 commuters, a study released this week by the Texas Transportation Institute says San Francisco Bay area traffic is among the worst in the nation.

The annual study found that the San Francisco-Oakland area has the third-worst roadway congestion in the country, trailing only Los Angeles and Seattle.

An analysis released concurrently by the Surface Transportation Policy Project says traffic continues to get worse even though the region continues to add more road capacity.

The project's Northern California Campaign Manager James Corless said the roads cannot keep pace with development.

"The truth is that we've added new

highway space faster than adding people in the Bay Area. We absolutely can't keep up with sprawling development patterns increasingly give people no choice but to drive for every trip," Corless said.

San Jose and the South Bay considered a separate metropolitan area in the study.

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# Splash Circus kids take their clowning seriously

By Corey Lyons

On the freedom of playing the fool. And to join Chelsea Zephyr's performance troupe, one must first learn to embrace his or her inner stogie. After an, the art of buffoonery requires constant practice, according to Zephyr, a professional acrobat, juggler and clown.

For the 11 diminutive East Bay kids who compose Splash Circus — a troupe featuring young gymnasts, clowns — playing the fool is a daunting experience.

"These kids are total hams. You get them an audience, and they just ham it up," says Zephyr, an Oakland resident who founded Splash in 1997.

This year's show is called "Fools in Metropolis," which traces a group of kids as they venture from an island in the Pacific Ocean to a metropolis fashioned after San Francisco.

The show, which includes more than a dozen short and lively acts, of-

fers satirical commentary about the hurried pace and wide socio-economic divisions that characterize life in the Bay Area.

One skit pokes fun at the corporate world, another shows a squandered bank heist, and yet another addresses the vagabonds and homeless people who regularly wander the paved paths of large cities.

Zephyr, the show's 31-year-old artistic director, allows her fledgling clowns — all between the ages of 8 and 15 — total creative freedom.

"She's a wonderful leader of kids," Sue Piper, whose 12-year-old daughter is a member of Splash Circus, says of Zephyr. "She's never telling them what to do. She's always working on their creativity."

And creativity seems to come naturally for the young talent in Splash Circus.

Tracy Piper, a seventh-grader at Claremont Middle School, says she encountered few problems acting like a clown in Splash Circus. The fit is a nat-

ural one, she says.

"I'm pretty weird anyway," says Tracy, at age 12 already a former gymnast and contortionist. "I'm the weirdest kid at school. But everybody respects me there because I could beat up everybody there. Nobody messes with me, so that's helpful."

On a recent day at Head Over Heels in Emeryville, a giant warehouse with padded floors and balancing beams for its visitors, mostly gymnasts, Tracy sat near her friend Rosa Cooper, a sophomore at Millennium High School in Piedmont.

The two girls, who giggle often and finish each other's sentences, formed a friendship while working together in Splash Circus.

Rosa, who specializes in aerial stunts, is currently the lone member of this circus who did not start out in gymnastics.

"I could barely do a cartwheel when I joined," says Rosa, wearing a patch of short-cropped hair and a pair of beat up Converse sneakers.

Still, the 15-year-old fits right in with the goofy circus cast. In one sequence from "Fools in Metropolis," she plays one of three clowns who happen upon a bank immediately after it is robbed.

Rosa actually plays two different roles in the skit, which requires an ability to change personalities — pronto.

"The most stressful part of the show, in general, is playing the bank teller," she says. "You're constantly in motion for five minutes as the bank robber enters. Then you go back and change and return as the clown."

"But as a clown, I'm fine — I have breathing time."

Tracy, an expressive and articulate girl, plays a "freak on the street" in some parts of the show. She says rehearsing for these bizarre roles is the easy part.

"I put one leg over my shoulder and make a silly face," she says, matter-of-factly.

Fair enough. Zina Goodall, a fifth-grader at Archway School in Oakland, started out in gymnastics at age 4 be-

## SPLASH CIRCUS

■ **What:** "Fools in Metropolis," a circus performance

■ **When:** 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 26, and Saturday, Nov. 27; 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28

■ **Where:** Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley

■ **Tickets:** \$8 to \$15 adults, \$4 to \$5 children under 14; tickets available at the door

■ **Call:** 510-482-5881



**RHEA CORSON-HIGGS**, whose nickname is "Shrimp," applies sprinkles to her hair before performing in "Fools in Metropolis."

"Now I'm a clown contortionist," she says, smiling. "I play a spider and a bank teller in the show."

And who could argue with that?

## Founder combines theater, gymnastics to create kids' circus troupe

By Corey Lyons

Chelsea Zephyr founded Splash Circus under the impression that she would also be able to explore her own theatrical goals.

But finding the spare time with which to explore has been a struggle. "It's a little bit of a frustration for me. I think I've done a good job as a director and writer, but I enjoy performing more than anything, and I don't have the time to do that."

Still, Zephyr isn't complaining. She loves working with her motley band of young clowns, and wouldn't trade the experience for anything.

At this stage of her performance career, she is trying to meet two distinct needs — shaping and inspiring young talent, and performing on her own.

Splash Circus, for which Zephyr directs, writes and teaches, accommodates the former desire. It's a nonprofit performance troupe she founded in January 1997.

This fledgling circus now features 11 East Bay youths, most of whom are former gymnasts who grew tired of competition.

But despite a shortage of time support, Splash Circus has become everything Zephyr had envisioned. And she'd like nothing more than to see it expand.

"It got to a point where it just sort of blossomed," she says of her circus, currently performing a show called "Fools in Metropolis" in Berkeley.

The years leading up to Splash Circus were eventful ones for its youthful artistic director.

For three years, Zephyr toured across the nation with a puppet performance group called Tears of Joy Theatre, which is based in Vancouver, Wa. She played with puppets, juggled and performed acrobatic stunts, all for laughs.

But life on the road — often in four week stints — grew too demanding on Zephyr, who quit in 1994.

"It was fun and a great experience," she says, "but it was also very exhausting."

She then started her own circus theater group in Portland, Ore., called Zephyr's Whole Grain Circus, which featured adults.

"I was a performer and a director,

so I had a little more freedom than I do with Splash — they were adults and had cars," says Zephyr, who attended Reed College in Blue Lake, from which she earned a bachelor's degree in theater arts in 1989.

Zephyr, however, had always had an urge to work with smaller and younger performers. So she started her first circus for kids: Cascade Youth Circus, in Seattle.

A year later, Zephyr ventured to England, where she polished her clowning act at the renowned Circo-media Academy of Circus Arts, a one-year program in Bristol.

"I got offered a job in northern Eng-

land, but it was a very industrial and very depressed environment, and I couldn't do it," she says.

So she returned to the United States, and started teaching gymnastics classes at Head Over Heels in Emeryville, where Splash Circus was born.

"Splash was entirely my own project," says Zephyr, who holds auditions for her circus shows. "It's something I had talked about doing my whole career — starting a community-based center for theater."

Recently, she started discussing a

possible two-woman theatrical act in which she would star with her friend, Angela Wood, a professional juggler. Zephyr is anxious to perform again.

Then again, maybe she'll just wait for her Splash Circus cast to grow up.

"Ten years down the road these Splash kids will be adults with cars," she says, smiling.

Splash Circus will hold auditions from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2000, at Head Over Heels, 1250 45th St., Suite E, Emeryville. Call 510-655-1265.

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# Real Estate & Home

The Montclair, The Berkeley Voice, The Piedmonter, The Journal

November 19, 1999

Section B

**Karen Senzig** Mortgage fraud takes toll on everyone's bottom line [B4]

**Weekly Sales** These numbers don't lie — stats that shape the market [B3]

**Open Homes** Find your dream digs in our handy listings [B11]

## Rooms to grow in bask in limelight

Traditional spaces, move over: Conservatories, Florida rooms and other 'bonus' areas are in demand

By Alan J. Heavens  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

Robert and Debbie Whitehead wanted a sunroom for their new house in Pennsylvania, but something they saw in the model home changed their mind.

Instead of just a sunroom, they got a "Florida room."

"It is absolutely my favorite part of the whole house," said Debbie. "When you walk into the doorway of the kitchen and see the kitchen, family room and Florida room, the expanse kind of takes your breath away."

So what is a Florida room, anyway, and what's it doing in new home developments like Pulte Home Corp.'s Smithfield Estates outside Philadelphia?

The Florida room started out in the late 1950s, in Florida, as an enclosed porch. It was popular for about 10 years as extra space where you could keep an old couch and a chair or two and relax.

But few builders in Florida appear to be offering Florida rooms these days. One reason is that the space once occupied by the Florida room is being used by the family room.

Another reason is that builders have to be careful where they put windows, because a western exposure in the state's



CONSERVATORIES have become a popular option in new homes. Extra rooms provide a home with large windows and give a sunny feeling.

## Survey puts agents in Net

What You Don't Know Can Hurt You



By Don Dunning

"Internet buyers are far more likely to work with an agent who has a strong Internet presence than one who does not."

Whether you are a buyer or seller, using a Realtor with a well-run personal Web site should net you success.

A survey commissioned this year by the California Association of Realtors compared the experiences of traditional buyers to buyers who had made a major purchase online.

According to the survey, Net buyers:

- Depended on the Internet for information about specific properties; traditional buyers relied on driving around to preview homes and/or neighborhoods.
- Used the Net for mostly information about the home buying process, including financing options.

See WIRED, Page B10



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HAL CASTLE ext. 220



**CIRCA 1930.....\$649,000**  
Story book home on 1/2 acre, nestled among the Oaks. This circa 1930, 4BR, 3BA home features cathedral ceilings, slate roof, 2 fireplaces, pool, sports court and complete privacy.  
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# Landlords: Act now to head off hassles

...or later, many homeowners become landlords. For example, if you move out of your house or condo for a year or more on a temporary job assignment, you'll probably become a landlord unless you decide to sell. If you plan to return to the area, rent your residence for a year or two to keep your home in good shape.

Perhaps you're buying a larger house and want to keep your old home for its rental property tax advantages and market value appreciation.

Although I've been a landlord for more than 30 years, about 98 percent of my tenants have been bad. Only 2 percent have been good. Whenever landlords get together, they never talk about our great tenants. Instead, we talk about the "rotten apples." If you saw the classic "Pacific Heights," you know how terrible some tenants can be. Fortunately, I've never had a bad tenant who was that bad.

There are three key steps that can make residential landlording (also called "renting") as easy as pie.

## Give your own properties

Although I will probably receive less mail from professional property managers, I believe that they have as great an interest in profit as I do. I earn the 5 to 15 percent commission on the rental income it would cost me to manage a professional property manager's house.

Of course, if I were to own hundreds of rental units, I would need to hire a management staff. But I'm just a "mom and pop" property investor, with three workers as needed, such as a housekeeper, painters and plumbers. Before I switched to single-family rental houses, which are comparatively easy to profitably buy, finance, manage and resell, I had managed managers in my small apartment buildings.

However, I found that I was "managing the managers." The same situation applies to landlords who hire professional property managers: they have to manage their manager. Expenses that are minimized and rents are maximized.

To simplify landlording, it's best to keep the residential rental into tip-top condition before showing it to prospective renters. "If you show a great rental, you'll get dirty tenants," a fellow investor wisely advised me. By drawing a well-cleaned rental, you'll attract the best tenants. To get the best applicants so that I can select the best-qualified, I advertise a "rental open house," usually from 5 p.m. on weekdays and 1 to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, until the vacancy is filled. That way, everyone visits the property at the same time, and I can make appointments with prospects who often "no shows."

By the way, to avoid any possibility of legal discrimination, be sure to ask every visitor your rental application form.

## Screen tenant applicants

The real key to easy landlording is to screen tenant applicants closely. In the past, I've rented to friends and checked their rental applications. A big mistake. Treat everyone equally. Run credit report checks on every applicant who returns a rental application with a deposit check. Even if your vacancy is empty a few days, or even weeks, that's a disaster when renting to a troublemaker tenant.

To illustrate, I recall one clean, handsome young man who wanted to rent a house from me. He had a \$1,000 deposit check to his credit application. But when I ran a credit check on him, I found he had been with several department stores. I returned his uncashed check and he threatened to sue me. However, I held firm. Later, I found him in touch with one of his former landlords who said the applicant

## Real Estate Notebook

By Robert J. Bruss

**To simplify landlording, it's best to get the residential rental into tip-top condition before showing it to prospective renters. "If you show a dirty rental, you'll get dirty tenants," a fellow investor wisely advised me.**

owed him more than \$2,000 for unpaid rent and damages.

## Make rent collections easy by giving receipts and discounts

After renting to a carefully screened tenant, the third step of easy landlording is to collect the rents by the first of each month. The system that works for me is to mail rent receipts to the tenants on the 24 of each month, along with a postpaid envelope. It's a rent reminder.

As a further incentive to pay by the first of the month, my tenants can deduct \$50 for each month (1) the rent envelope is postmarked by the first of the month, (2) the tenant takes care of minor repairs up to \$50 per month and (3) the tenant doesn't phone me (except for a serious problem such as fire, flood or death — theirs, not mine).

If I don't receive the rent by the third day of the month, I phone the tenant. Sometimes they have a problem, such as a job loss or illness. In that situation, I'll let a good tenant pay half the rent with the other half due by the 15th of the month.

However, if I haven't received the rent by the fifth of the month, it's time for a personal visit. Also, a \$50 late fee takes effect under my rental agreement. If the tenant isn't at home, I post a "Pay Rent or Quit" notice on the door and begin the eviction procedure.

Usually, this motivates the tenant, and no further problems arise after they learn I need their rent to pay my mortgage and expenses. I politely explain that I'm just the middleman between the tenant and the bank.

## Conclusion

Landlording is not a difficult business if you know how to anticipate and solve problems. There are millions of U.S. landlords. If they can succeed with their rental properties, so can you. More details are in my new report "Landlording Made Easy: Property Management 1-2-3" available for \$4 from Robert Bruss, 251 Park Rd., Burlingame, CA 94010 or by credit card at 800-736-1736.

Robert J. Bruss is a real estate attorney and syndicated columnist based in Burlingame. You may write to him at 251 Park Road, Burlingame, CA 94010.

# One man's trash is another's garden aid

Recycling saves castoffs from landfill, inspires eco-friendly alternatives

By Patricia Haller

CORRESPONDENT

Imagine your yard filled with beer bottles, discarded tires and empty soda bottles. Add old grocery bags and scrap wood on a deck scattered with plastic milk jugs and shrink-wrap ripped from shipping pallets.

Sound ugly? On the contrary. Thanks to new technologies and manufacturers committed to the environment, unsightly trash is being recycled into beautiful landscape products. Glass bottles become glass tiles and find a new home as colorful accents in a terrace or pool; old tire rubber is used to make irrigation hoses and weed matting; used shrink-wrap is turned into flowerpots; and the plastic from milk jugs and soda bottles is used to create everything from lawn edging to patio furniture.

There are a number of different (recycled) products, some of them manufactured here in the East Bay, said Ann Ludwig, program manager for the Alameda County Waste Management Authority. Nov. 15 was America Recycles Day, and as the active outdoor gardening season winds down and people start planning landscape renovations, Ludwig encourages homeowners to look for recycled materials that do the job, create the look they want and meet their budget.

That may seem like a tall order. But those who keep track of the growing market for recycled goods insist that the past five years have seen a huge increase in the number of products made from waste materials that easily make the grade economically and aesthetically. "It used to be that people's perception of recycled products was that they were low-quality, hard to find, expensive and ugly," said Joyce Gagnon, a Seattle-based consultant specializing in recycled products for landscape applications. "That's just not the case anymore."

To prove it, she has created display gardens constructed almost exclusively of recycled materials, including her "Art by the Yard" exhibit at the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show last spring.

Especially growing in popularity is lumber made of HDPE plastic — the kind used in milk jugs and soda bottles — and "composite" lumber made of half waste wood and half recycled plastic. "At first it was difficult to get gardeners to look at plastic," said Gagnon. "By nature they're into the naturalness of it all, and plastics, in most people's minds, are the most fake things there are."

"But the very things people don't like about plastic make it ideal for the garden — it lasts forever; the bugs don't eat it; and it doesn't degrade." Unlike most wood used outdoors "it doesn't have to be treated with things that leach into the ground, so it can be used for vegetable beds."

Add the environmental benefit of keeping the plastics out of the land-

fill and cutting fewer trees, and more gardeners started trying plastic lumber products. With growing demand came more choices, better quality and lower prices.

"Now, you are hard pressed to find plastic lumber that is not well manufactured, and the choices are amazing," said Gagnon, who encourages the doubtful to order samples of the materials so they can see for themselves.

"There are different colors and textures and they all come in the same sizes as traditional lumber."

A number of companies are even turning the lumber into patio furniture, garden benches and garden structures that look like wood, but are more durable.

Plastic lumber still costs more on the average than wood, said Gagnon, but because it never needs to be painted, stained, treated or replaced, its cost over time may actually be less than wood.

In fact, it was quality, performance and price, not environmental concerns, that persuaded Joel Trestrail of Walnut Creek to try Trex decking, which is made of 50 percent wood waste and 50 percent recycled plastic grocery bags.

Two years later, Trestrail has installed two Trex decks and is working on a third. He has also used some of the material to edge his flower beds.

"It's the product as a whole that I like," said Trestrail, a millwork specialist at Truitt & White Lumber in Berkeley, which has carried the product for three years. "The first deck I put in was by the pool, and with the decking's plastic content there's less maintenance; it's easy on the feet to walk on; there's no splinters for the kids; and it was easy to cut and screw into. And because it's a manufactured product, it's consistent, it doesn't split and there are no knots."

As for the cost, he said, Truitt & White Lumber sells Trex Decking for \$1.98 per board foot — about the same as construction heart redwood, a quality redwood decking.

## Regular wood rots

John Tully, lead carpenter at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, chose Timber Tech, a textured, tongue-and-groove composite decking, for a 3,400-square-foot deck that serves as an access area to six trailer buildings at the lab.

"We've had all kinds of problems with regular wood rotting and being slippery when it gets wet," said Tully. "This stuff conforms to (the Americans with Disabilities Act) for non-skid, and it's going to last a long time without having to paint or stain it. I think it's going to save us a lot of money" on maintenance and repairs.

Many homeowners make "being green" an intentional choice. After years of teaching her children to recycle, compost and reduce waste, Susanne Maruoka of San Francisco didn't argue when her grown son offered to install a Trex deck to replace her deteriorating 25-year-old

redwood deck. Three years later, much of her landscape uses products made from things that would otherwise have ended up in a landfill. Her white Adirondack chairs are made of recycled milk jugs. So are the landscape timbers she used to build a raised bed. Even the compost bins are made from recycled plastic. Maruoka says she loves the look, the low maintenance, "and it's environmentally correct."

Homeowners used to have to make an effort to find eco-friendly products. But that, too, is changing as the products become mainstream, often displayed in home centers and showrooms side-by-side with more traditional materials.

## Recycled products

Consumers may be buying and using recycled products without knowing it. A number of contractors say they recommend and install Bend-a-Board lawn and garden edging, made entirely of post-consumer HDPE by Epic Plastics of San Rafael, because it's easy to install into elegant curves and doesn't deteriorate in the ground.

Ludwig said that for years some brands of irrigation soaker hoses have been made from recycled tires. Many of these products were either not labeled as recycled or were sold almost exclusively wholesale for contractors.

"But now they're showing up in places like Home Depot and Orchard Supply Home Depot is even using signage to point out to people when things are made of recycled products" at some stores, said Ludwig.

The result is that homeowners considering a landscape project can go to a home center, lumber yard or showroom and compare the look, price and function of recycled products with more traditional materials. Consequently, people who never considered environmentally friendly products may end up walking out

with something recycled.

"We see a wonderful reactions," when people discover the tile they love is really made of recycled glass, said Lisa Snyder, manager at Tile and Stone Concepts in Walnut Creek. The store features prominent displays of Ocean-side decorative tiles and Terra Green tile, perfect indoors for countertops or outdoors in pools, patios and barbecues. Both are comparable to porcelain tile, but because they contain about half post-consumer recycled glass, they do not need to be sealed.

"I almost never have someone come in looking for recycled tile," she said, but frequently customers who are initially drawn to the beauty of the tile decide to buy it once they discover it has recycled glass content.

## What manufacturers want

That's what the manufacturers of recycled products are counting on.

"One recent report found that 78 percent of the public believe that recycling used products into new products is absolutely essential," said Christopher Weir, spokesman for WorldWise Inc. of San Rafael, which sells a line of planters that look like terra-cotta, but are really made of the shrink wrap used to cover pallets during shipping. "That means the message is out there and people are absorbing and embracing it."

All other things being equal, when people can get value and quality and help the environment, they almost always choose a recycled product over one that's not, he said.

When you combine that increased consumer awareness with broader choices in the marketplace, higher-quality products at an affordable price, and the fact that people don't have to go to a specialty market to buy them, said Weir, "the concept of environmental conservation (is being taken) out of the niche realm and into the mainstream where people can make these choices."



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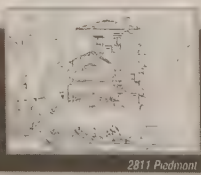
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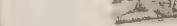
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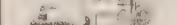
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# Fraud passes expenses back to mortgage consumers

A borrower asked us, "Why does the lender need my W2 forms? I gave you my tax returns? Why don't they believe me?"

Lenders release approximately \$1.7 trillion in mortgage loans each year. Of those loans, about 30 percent are based on false information. Of these, 15 percent to 30 percent would not have been made if the lenders knew all the facts.

Everyone has heard of the "quick qualifier" or "no income verification" programs that have been available to borrowers who are self-employed, retired or whose income can not be documented or is buried in trusts.

These borrowers must have excellent credit to overcome the lender's risk of having to believe that the borrower will be able to handle the debt service without verifying the borrower's income.

These loan programs fill a need,

## Mortgage Madness



**By Karen Senzig**

"The FBI reports that, in 1998, lenders made at least \$60 billion dollars worth of fraudulent loans."

but like anything else, the bad guys figure a way to abuse the system. The FBI reports that, in 1998, lenders made at least \$60 billion dollars worth of fraudulent mortgage loans. In the end, it is the consumers who pay the price in increased fees, forms and interest rates.

### Property flipping

One of the most common forms

of mortgage fraud is called "property flipping." A property is bought and then resold (flipped) several times within a single pool of investors, each time at an artificially inflated price. It is finally sold to a unsuspecting buyer, who noting the previous sales information, pays more than the property is worth. The new property owner is stuck with the property until the market catches up, if it ever does.

When the buyer tries to remedy the problem, he may find he can't track down the seller group — it may have used falsified identification.

The victim might discover that the small escrow company that handled the transaction is no longer in business and was also tied to the seller group as part of the scam.

In our real estate market, it doesn't take unscrupulous groups of real estate scam artists to drive up home

prices. The lack of inventory is doing this all on its own.

### Binary bandits

The increased use of computers has created nightmares for legitimate lenders as well. Computers can create bank statements, verifications of employment, W2s, tax forms and other documents needed for a mortgage.

### Best defense

To prevent mortgage fraud with income tax returns, mortgage lenders

have been insisting that borrowers who provide tax documentation sign tax forms 95-01 which allows the lender to check the returns provided against those actually filed.

Some lenders who provide loans without income verification ask the borrower to sign a tax form 4506. These lenders may select files on self-employed borrowers on a random basis to see if the stated income is any where close to their gross income on their Schedule C.

For the borrower who asks why

the lenders don't believe

bottom line. Mortgage fraud costs the industry big bucks, but it's the consumer pays.

Karen Senzig is a mortgage broker with Scott. She can be reached at 8511, fax 510-339-3814, ksenzig@aol.com. Please contact her with any mortgage and/or topics for discussion.

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6 Mesa Avenue, Piedmont New Listing 1,195,000  
Elegant w/exquisite details. Spacious public rooms + 4BR/3BA, Family room, office. Level out to landscaped garden. Everyday living & grand scale entertaining. Bettina Balestrieri

**Oakland - Open Sunday 2-4:30 p.m.**



5618 La Salle Avenue, La Salle Estates \$2,750,000  
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4457 View Place New Price \$449,000  
A Glenview gem featuring built-ins, upgraded kitchen. French doors open off eat-in kitchen to delightful back deck. Freshly painted inside & out. Mavis Delacroix



120 Calvert Court New Price \$629,000  
Located in a uniquely serene setting & a wonderful blend of indoor & outdoor living. 3+ BR/2BA, grand living room, formal dining & wine cellar. Sheila Gallagher



1524 Hampel Street \$309,000  
A Glenview gem featuring built-ins, upgraded kitchen. French doors open off eat-in kitchen to delightful back deck. Freshly painted inside & out. Judy Rankankan

### Piedmont - By Appointment



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Absolutely stunning property. More than an acre wooded lot w/oversized tennis court, pool, green house, sweeping lawns and sunny gardens. Jean Simmons



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Wonderful Montclair Cottage New Price \$230,000  
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Piedmont Side of Montclair New Listing \$575,000  
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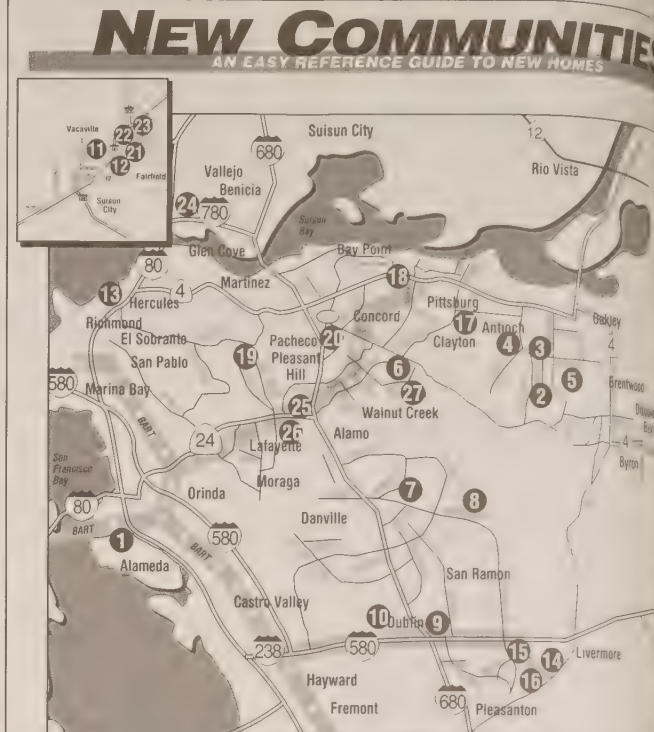
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### ANTIOCH

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From the \$230,000's New Release! Richland's distinctive tower accented architecture is a must see. Lrg. 4 & 5 BR 2200-2600 sq ft w/3 car gar., country kit., 7000-sq ft lots. Lone Tree to Modelhome Dr. Open 11-5 925-706-8855 or www.richlandinfo.com

#### 3 Lone Tree Estates-Masters Collection

From mid \$200,000's. Up to \$5K allowance! Final Phase. Rec. dr./pool/spa/tennis/more! 1 & 2 story, 2127-2896 sq ft, 3-6BR/3 car gar., ext. amenities & opts. Lone Tree/Muirwood Davidson Homes. Open 10-5 925-778-3092

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### BRENTWOOD

#### 5 Diablo Vista

From the \$200,000's Grand Opening Celebration! Affordable luxury living! Exciting new single-fam. neighborhood widens to 2700 sq ft. 5BR, 3BA. Central community loc. at Fairview & San Jose. Richmond American Homes. www.richmondamerican.com 925-516-7193

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### DANVILLE

#### 7 Campbell Place

From the \$800,000's. 1st. edition of only 20 craftsman-style exec homes on lrg. view lots w/finished floors/680 to Sycamore Vly Rd. E. rt onto Camino Tassajara. Left on Glasgow Dr., rt on Glasgow Cir., rt on Campbell Pl. By Pacific Union Homes 925-743-0238

#### 8 Shadow Creek Manor

From low \$600,000's. Closeout Sale! Selling Final Phase! 4-5 BR. Take 680 to Crow Canyon Rd. east, right on Camino Tassajara. follow signs. Open 10-5, closed Wed/Thurs. 925-736-7369

### DUBLIN

#### 9 Merriam at Emerald Park

From high \$300,000's. NEW RELEASE! Models open. Luxury living in master-planned community with 3 home designs up to 2200 sq ft, 5 BR & 3 baths. Loft, super family room, retreat options. Near I-580 & Dublin BART. Hacienda ext. no. off 580. Open daily 10-5, Mon 2-5. Richmond American Homes. www.richmondamerican.com 925-829-8029

#### 10 Starward

From low \$300,000's. 3-4BR, 2BA, 2 story, steel built. Garden setting/ views/hwy. access/shopping/schools. 580/exit San Ramon No.1rt. Amador Vly/lt. Starward Dr. www.schuliera.com or 925-875-1060

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#### 11 First Green at Rancho Solano CC

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#### 12 Ridgeview at Paradise Valley

From mid \$200,000's. Now Selling! Spacious, to 7BR, 4BA, 3 plans, 2200-3400 sq ft. Richmond American Homes. Open daily 1-60 exit N. Texas St. rt/left on Dickson Hill/rt. on Manuel Campos Pkwy/left on Paradise Vly. 707-438-7600. www.richmondamerican.com

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### LIVERMORE

#### 14 Ravenswood

From upper \$400,000's. Country estates on 1/4 ac. lots. 11-5 925-371-6648. www.creativehomes.com/raevens

#### 15 Ridgecrest

From mid \$300,000's Phase 5 Now Selling! 38 historical style designs, to 2273 sq ft, 4BR 2.5BA. Desirable loc. in 1480 BART. Richmond American Homes. 580 to N. Livermore. rt/rt. on Forest. 11-5 925-371-6648. www.richmondamerican.com

#### 16 Vintage Collection

From low \$600,000's. Scenic homes by Delta Star. 15-18 w/views of Livermore Winevines. Close to Ruby rd. Golf Course. Spacious floorplans. complete amenities. Open Thurs 4-8 925-606-5505

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#### 17 Highlands Ranch

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### VALLEJO

#### 24 Crystal Pointe

From the \$190,000's. FINAL PHASE! Historic homes in prime neighborhood w/views of Carquinez Strait. 3 Plans to 1911 sq ft. 3-4 BR, 2-3 BA. Great community loc. near I-80. Open Sat 10-5 707-447-5000. www.richmondamerican.com

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# Think twice about 'warning' others about landlord; you could be sued

I signed a six-month fixed-term lease with my previous landlord. For fixed-term leases, no notice to vacate notice is required. The lease simply terminates at the end of the period.

Three weeks before the end of the lease, we gave the landlord notice that we would not renew our lease. We were willing to pay. Beyond what we were willing to pay, we moved out on time, before the end of the six months after paying every month. Nevertheless, the landlord claimed we owed them three weeks' rent, since we did not give them 30 days' notice.

We withheld our security deposit, saying there was an automatic renewal clause in our rental agreement, which required a 30-day notice. They said based on that, our lease automatically rolled over to a month-to-month lease at the end of the original contract. And, since I gave them three weeks notice, we said, we still owed them for three weeks' rent on the month-to-month lease. I took them to Small Claims Court and won a judgment, but the company eventually reclaimed the security deposit.

It's just that I am still angry and certain the owner is cheating thousands of tenants a year out of their rent. How can I inform the tenants of these illegal practices? You may have done that just by at least telling them. We were a large judgment. However, be careful about using an Internet forum for such communications. I signed the company values its business reputation, and you could face a lawsuit for defamation if you make statements that aren't true and hurt the company's reputation.

You can report truthfully your own experience. However, if you publish a statement, without proof, that the company is cheating thousands of tenants a year, you could be liable. The company's business practice may or may not affect many other tenants, but you can't know that from your relationship with the company.

—Jeffrey P. Widman, attorney  
(Note: Virtual Real Estate's question-and-answer format prohibits it from naming the apartment complex owner without, in all fairness, giving it an opportunity to respond. The forum's primary purpose is to provide general answers to questions in the hopes that readers obtain some direction, referrals or resources to handle problems and address concerns.)

## VIRTUAL REAL ESTATE

### GOT A QUESTION?

Have a real estate question and need fast, expert advice? Post it on the Virtual Real Estate Forum on the San Jose Mercury News' Real Estate Home Page at [www.mercurycenter.com/realstate](http://www.mercurycenter.com/realstate)

tion-and-answer format prohibits it from naming the apartment complex owner without, in all fairness, giving it an opportunity to respond. The forum's primary purpose is to provide general answers to questions in the hopes that readers obtain some direction, referrals or resources to handle problems and address concerns.)

### Back property taxes

Q: I bought a house on June 9 and moved in June 15. Recently, a letter from the Real Property Division of Santa Clara County demanded supplemental tax due on the house for the 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 tax years. The house was largely destroyed by fire in October 1998, but the owners rebuilt it. The pre-appraisal value was smaller than the post-appraisal value, so the Real Property Division tried to collect tax on the higher value. The old owner already paid property taxes for 1998-1999 and the first half of the taxes for the tax year 1999-2000. What I should do? Do I have to pay a half-year of property taxes? I did not live in this house in 1998.

A: It can take several months for the tax assessor to update records when a house is reassessed after a sale. The supplemental statement is sent to cover reassessment from the sale date until the records have been updated to a current property tax statement. As the current owner, you are responsible for the property tax from the date you took possession and recorded your deed.

Your supplemental bill for the 1998-1999 tax year would only be from June 9 through June 30. Your supplemental bill for the 1999-2000 tax year is from July 1 forward. Anything on the bill posted June 8 or prior would be the responsibility of the previous owner.

—Sam J. Gilstrap, agent/broker

### Noise above

Q: A bit longer than a year ago, new owners moved into a condo above mine and began making noise, heavy footsteps, rolling, moving and shifting heavy objects and making the floorboards creak. The previous owner changed the flooring to hardwood in the entryway, kitchen and the dining areas before she sold her unit. We recently went to see them and politely mentioned the noise problem, but their young daughter asked us to leave. I've since written to the homeowners association, but it only sent out a notice in its newsletter about keeping the noise down.

At my insistence, a month later the association sent a letter to the owners. Nothing has changed, and the association does not want to get involved any further. Their response is that this is a matter between me and the owners of the unit above. I believe the new tenants are violating Section 15 of the current

Covenants Conditions & Restrictions. Section 15 is not incorporated in the proposed CC&Rs because it has not yet been approved by the unit owners.

Should the previous owner have disclosed the violation of Section 15 to the present owners? Can the new owners go after the previous owner, the listing agent and their agent if it was not disclosed? Is there some statute of limitation regarding disclosures? Is the homeowners association liable for not taking any action against the previous owner? Don't I have a right to the "quiet enjoyment" of my home? What action can I take?

A: I don't know if Section 15 pertains to noise restriction, requirements for architectural review — say, for the hardwood floors on the second floor — quiet enjoyment or acoustical changes. It's difficult to say

if there is some culpability on the part of the previous owner, the seller, the agent or the association in this matter. Without knowing the contents of your CC&Rs, it appears that the association has done as much as it can to assist you by writing to the neighbors to request their cooperation.

However, the type of noises you are describing could be considered ordinary and expected.

The units are connected, and it is unreasonable to expect that you will have total quiet from any neighbors. Continue to try to work with the neighbors to determine where the floor squeak is located.

Suggest having them cover high-traffic areas with carpeted runners to muffle the sound. Consider adding additional insulation in the area between your ceiling and the floor of the upstairs unit — but remember, most associations' rules will require

that you obtain approval for this type of architectural change.

—Grace Morioka, Commoncents Management

A: You are not a party to the previous sale, so I can't address most of your questions about the new owners and their legal rights. You would be wise not to stir up trouble between those parties. If a violation of the association's rules did occur, consider requesting the association's board to address the violation. In the end, the board holds some discretion over how to handle your problem.

—Jeffrey P. Widman, attorney

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14000 BROADWAY TER. Fabulous new construction w/pano Bay views, 3BD/2.5BA, kitchen/FR. Patricia Scott

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1102 GRAND VIEW DR. Tuscan masterpiece w/3+BD/2.5BA, cook's kitchen, copper handrails, patio & yard. Joanna Gould

**ROCKRIDGE (UPPER) \$699,000**  
6350 CONTRA COSTA RD. Best buy in great area! 2-year old contemporary, 4BD/4BA, formal dining room, huge family room. Hillcrest school. Dee & Joe Knowland

**ALAMEDA \$695,000**  
2933 SOUTHWOOD DR. Gracious 3+BD/3BA Tudor w/updated kitchen, conservatory, family room, gardens. Wendy Sprague

**MONTCLAIR \$539,000**  
2211 PELHAM PL. Private retreat on approx. 1/2 acre. Bay view, dramatic architecture, 3BD/2BA, artists' studio. Nancy Chew

**PIEDMONT \$435,000**  
24 SYLVAN WAY. New listing! Charming 2BD/1BA home with legal 1BD/1BA rental unit, hardwood floors, patio, yard. Ann Nichols

**ROCKRIDGE (UPPER) \$399,000**  
4439 HARBOR DR. New listing! Spacious 2+BD/2BA custom home w/potential extra bedrooms. Rec. room, office, yard, decks. Dick Cohen

### Open Sunday

**OAKMORE \$309,000**  
2012 MELVIN RD. Best value! 3BD/2BA, formal dining room, kitchen/family room combo, hardwood floors. Price is "as is." Jeffrey Himmel

**BERKELEY \$299,000**  
2129 SPAULDING AVE. New listing! Spacious 3BD/1BA bungalow with large yards, formal DR, hardwood floors. Roseline Woods

**By Appointment**

**PIEDMONT \$3,900,000**  
Fabulous Mediterranean / Italianate home on 2/3 acre of lush grounds, Bay view, 6+BD/6+BA. Georgia Cornell

**PIEDMONT \$1,595,000**  
Gracious Colonial with 6 bedrooms, 5.5 baths, includes four-room au pair. Wonderful yard. Helen Danhaki

**MONTCLAIR \$775,000**  
Custom Traditional near Village, 5BD/3BA, formal DR, family room w/party kitchen. Wendy Gardner

**REDWOOD HTS. \$289,500**  
Lovely all-level 3 BD/2BA home w/S.F. Bay views, study/den, eat in kitchen. Diane E. McCan

**OAKLAND \$285,000**  
Fully rented 6-plex, all 1BD/1BA units. Between 35th Ave. & High St. Price is "as is." Tom Wurst

**REDWOOD HTS. \$269,500**  
Charming 2BD/1BA architectural gem w/undevel. bonus room, garage, level yard. Diane E. McCan

### For Lease

**PIEDMONT**  
Magnificent estate property. 7+BD/7+BA, beautiful grounds, pool, partially furnished. Avail. January, 2000. \$12,000/mo. Georgia Cornell

**MONTCLAIR \$590 LA SALLE**  
Open Saturday, Nov. 20, 10:00 a.m. - noon. All level 3BD/2BA near Village. Great yard. \$2500/mo. Teri Carlisle

### Coming Soon

**PIEDMONT \$499,000**  
Beautifully updated 3+BD/2BA home w/ master suite, level back garden, breakfast area off kitchen. Debi Fitzgerald

**CROCKER HIGHLANDS**  
Charming 2+BD/1.5BA home in lovely private setting. Formal dining room, updated kitchen, FR, hardwood floors. Helen Danhaki

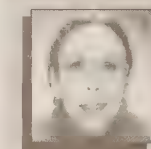
**REDWOOD HTS. \$340,000**  
Beautiful 3BD/1+BA, formal dining room, new kitchen, remodeled bath, hardwood floors, patio. Donna DeBardi/Wendy Sprague

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### BERKELEY

**765 CEDAR** Architect, Michael Oleo created a spacious storefront studio, for the owner & a unique upstairs apartment & deck. State of the art live/work with lovely serene garden - and close to it all! Paul Templeton, ext. 131 \$450,000

**1077 PARK HILLS** OPEN SUN 2-4. NEW PRICE. Light filled contemporary with Tilden Park View. 3+Bed, 2.5Bath, wonderful master, private garden. Leslie Avant ext. 122. \$479,000

**LAND** 720 EUCLID AVE. This splendid parcel provides a large level building pad, easy access and Bay Views! A great location for swift transportation. Bebe McRae, ext. 145

### OAKLAND

**30 CALDECOTT LANE #160**. Now listing! Beautiful I BR/BA 'Golden Gate' condominium. Pool, gym, parking, and superb location! Tricia Swift, ext. 140. \$190,000

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## WEEKLY HOME SALES

Compiled by TitleTech

## ALAMEDA

1845 9th St - \$235,000  
 3 Curlew Ct - \$309,000  
 1004 Easter Ln - \$240,000  
 3023 Flora Vs - \$223,000  
 1 Lavagetto Ct - \$445,000  
 2611 Lincoln Av - \$316,000  
 101 Oldcastle Ln - \$690,000  
 2137 Otis Dr - \$173,000  
 1139 Pacific Av - \$239,000  
 8 Regulus Ct - \$354,000  
 1816 Schiller St - \$315,000  
 879 Walnut St - \$338,500  
 2829 Waterton St - \$339,000  
 1333 Webster St #A105 - \$115,000  
 1115 Willow St - \$280,000

## ALBANY

820 Jackson St - \$250,000  
 911 Madison St - \$250,000

## BERKELEY

2836 Acton St - \$180,000  
 2901 Benvenue Av - \$648,500  
 1607 Berkeley Wy - \$365,000  
 2137 Browning St - \$376,000  
 1829 Carleton St - \$400,000  
 2601 College Av #202 - \$276,000  
 604 Colusa Av - \$326,000  
 2321 Corona Ct - \$645,000  
 644 Cragmont Av - \$900,000  
 851 Grizzly Peak Bl - \$502,000  
 1626 Kains Av - \$325,000  
 2700 Le Conte Av - \$215,000  
 1325 McGee Av - \$670,000  
 2434 Milvia St - \$323,500  
 1710 Russell St - \$298,000  
 2311 Russell St - \$641,500  
 2315 Russell St - \$384,000  
 1863 San Lorenzo Av - \$500,000  
 832 San Luis Rd - \$1,200,000  
 1609 Virginia St - \$335,000  
 1215 Ward St - \$140,000  
 1611 Ward St - \$219,000

## EL CERRITO

413 Albarbarie St - \$242,000  
 2364 Alva Av - \$440,000  
 6811 Central Av - \$252,000  
 6706 Donal Av - \$300,000  
 1316 Gayle Ct - \$290,000  
 6450 Hagen Bl - \$315,000  
 2051 Harper St - \$320,000  
 505 Kearney St - \$189,500  
 530 Liberty St - \$400,000  
 938 Liberty St - \$310,000  
 133 Pomona Av - \$225,000  
 2617 Sonoma St - \$299,000  
 25 Wildwood Pl - \$220,000

## EL SOBRANTE

829 Manor Rd - \$315,000

## EMERYVILLE

6 Admiral Dr #274A - \$129,000  
 2 Admiral Dr #377 - \$194,000  
 3 Commodore Dr #260 - \$245,000  
 5514 Doyle St #4 - \$319,000  
 5514 Doyle St #7 - \$271,000

## OAKLAND

1239 106th Av - \$137,000  
 2025 106th Av - \$176,500  
 2369 107th Av - \$142,000  
 1844 13th Av - \$126,000  
 3006 14th Av - \$92,000  
 865 22nd St - \$107,000  
 1600 27th Av - \$185,000  
 1233 31st Av - \$80,000  
 924 39th St - \$130,000  
 527 43rd St - \$179,000  
 864 44th St - \$185,000  
 1655 47th Av - \$142,000  
 1138 53rd St - \$185,000  
 558 63rd St - \$180,000  
 2218 64th Av - \$138,500  
 1062 67th St - \$140,000  
 1205 82nd Av - \$76,000  
 1159 87th Av - \$90,000  
 2021 88th Av - \$115,000  
 1405 Allman St - \$241,000  
 9221 B St - \$108,500  
 9433 B St - \$113,000  
 6768 Banning Dr - \$454,000  
 565 Bellevue Av #2502 - \$400,000  
 412 Bellevue Av - \$251,500  
 694 Brockhurst St - \$125,000  
 5646 Buena Vs Av - \$395,000  
 5816 Buena Vs Av - \$225,000  
 1134 Campbell St - \$77,000  
 4001 Carrington St - \$152,000  
 5824 Clover Dr - \$489,000  
 6006 Colton Bl - \$310,000

## On the average

## ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 15  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$115,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$690,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$280,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$307,433

## ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 2  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$250,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$250,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$250,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$250,000

## BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 22

4024 East 18th St - \$135,000  
 6042 East Outlook Av - \$240,000  
 4350 Everett Av - \$581,000  
 1770 Excelsior Av - \$225,000  
 6069 Fairlane Dr - \$725,000  
 988 Franklin St #1108 - \$205,000  
 1904 Franklin St #415 - \$146,000  
 5303 Genoa St - \$158,500  
 1680 Grand View Dr - \$865,000  
 6651 Gunn Dr - \$266,500  
 7515 Halliday Av - \$95,000  
 1500 Hampel St - \$360,000  
 3413 Hannah St - \$80,000  
 7772 Hansom Dr - \$401,000  
 2662 Harrison St - \$191,000  
 1434 Havenscourt Bl - \$145,000  
 1550 Havenscourt Bl - \$150,000  
 45 Hemlock Ln - \$297,000  
 342 Henry St - \$90,000  
 4320 Hyacinth Av - \$230,000  
 758 Kingston Av #28 - \$150,000  
 3223 Laurel Av - \$105,000  
 3912 Laurel Av - \$318,000  
 212 Lee St - \$139,000  
 3242 Liese Av - \$125,000  
 4168 Lyman Rd - \$457,000  
 10540 Mark St - \$161,000  
 4463 Masterson St - \$180,000  
 3136 Maxwell Av - \$230,000  
 579 Mira Vs Av - \$295,000  
 35 Montell St - \$431,000  
 7300 Ney Av - \$110,000  
 6959 Norfolk Rd - \$607,500  
 407 Orange St #201 - \$97,000  
 3271 Prentiss St - \$198,000  
 6212 Ridgmont Dr - \$475,000  
 2175 Santa Rita St - \$153,000  
 6975 Saroni Dr - \$366,000  
 5538 Scoville St - \$146,000  
 859 Stanford Av - \$230,000  
 11280 Sun Valley Dr - \$649,000  
 79 Templar Pl - \$471,000  
 4347 Terrabella Pl - \$320,000  
 4600 Tompkins Av - \$255,000  
 50 Vancleave Wy - \$365,000  
 4308 Viewcrest Ct - \$520,000  
 1226 West St - \$199,000  
 250 Whitmore St #104 - \$96,000  
 4091 Whittle Av - \$219,000  
 29 Windward Hill - \$525,000

## EL CERRITO

126 16th St - \$113,500  
 1923 16th St - \$168,000  
 716 33rd St - \$138,000  
 651 36th St - \$140,000  
 420 39th St - \$170,000  
 736 7th St - \$90,000  
 541 9th St - \$225,000  
 4012 Barrett Av - \$190,000  
 879 Bridgeway Ct - \$364,000  
 2127 Bush Av - \$140,000  
 1364 Carlson Bl - \$111,500  
 1529 Coalina Av - \$112,000  
 5020 Fray Av - \$141,000  
 2201 Garvin Av - \$161,000  
 405 Golden Gate Av #1 - \$237,000  
 2747 Greenwood Dr - \$149,000  
 1321 Hellingas Av - \$265,000  
 2531 Humphrey Av - \$125,000  
 403 Joan Vs St #20 - \$117,000  
 3910 La Cima Rd - \$115,000  
 8 Las Moradas Ct - \$115,000  
 3503 Lowell Av - \$155,000  
 440 Marina Wy - \$76,000  
 4403 Meadowbrook Dr - \$197,000  
 32 Nicholl Av - \$285,000  
 1522 Ohio Av - \$105,000  
 415 Ohio Av - \$159,000  
 1826 Pennsylvania Av - \$97,000  
 1300 Quarry Ct #216 - \$345,000  
 4883 San Pablo Dam Rd - \$475,000  
 5103 Simoni Dr - \$350,000  
 5156 Simoni Dr - \$276,000  
 4300 Taft Av - \$125,000  
 3321 Tulare Av - \$103,000

## RICHMOND

126 16th St - \$113,500  
 1923 16th St - \$168,000  
 716 33rd St - \$138,000  
 651 36th St - \$140,000  
 420 39th St - \$170,000  
 736 7th St - \$90,000  
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 4883 San Pablo Dam Rd - \$475,000  
 5103 Simoni Dr - \$350,000  
 5156 Simoni Dr - \$276,000  
 4300 Taft Av - \$125,000  
 3321 Tulare Av - \$103,000

LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 140,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$1,200,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 365,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$ 448,614

## EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 13  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$189,500  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$440,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$290,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$292,500

## EL SOBRANTE

TOTAL SALES: 1  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$315,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$315,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$ 0  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$315,000

5620 Van Fleet Av - \$160,000  
 1902 Visalia Av - \$121,000

## SAN LEANDRO

1267 139th Av - \$175,000  
 14835 14th St #18 - \$121,500  
 934 Alice Av - \$200,000  
 360 Anza Wy - \$226,000  
 15681 Baypoint Av - \$379,000  
 2478 Blackpool Ln - \$204,000  
 15488 Blue Heron Ct - \$291,500  
 826 Bridge Rd - \$268,000  
 118 Castro St #10 - \$189,000

## EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 5  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$129,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$319,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$194,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$231,600

## OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 82  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 76,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$865,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$185,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$245,433

## RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 36  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 76,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$475,000

MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$141,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$178,222

## SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 34  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$ 75,000  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$415,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$225,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$229,912

## SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 7  
 LOWEST AMOUNT: \$188,500  
 HIGHEST AMOUNT: \$284,000  
 MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$255,000  
 AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$249,786

224 Lorraine Bl - \$250,000  
 14536 Maracaibo Rd - \$275,000  
 14494 Nassau Rd - \$216,000  
 14083 Reed Av - \$137,500  
 14473 Santiago Rd - \$260,000  
 1708 Thornton Pl - \$234,000

1772 The...  
 1346 The...  
 1446 The...  
 14536 The...  
 2240 The...  
 SAN LORENZO  
 322 The...  
 15750 Via...  
 1685 Via...  
 15747 Via...

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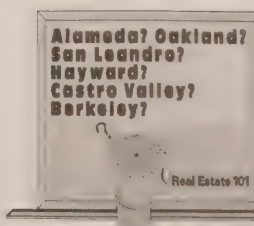
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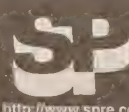
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## EL CERRITO

## SHARP AND CLEAN.....\$399,000

2 bdrm 1 ba, 1 car att. garage, partial view, dining area cont. shingle roof, rear fenced yard, #99029176  
 Ed Messner (510) 662-8494

## ALBANY

## GREAT LOCATION / GREAT VALUE.....\$399,000

2 bdrm 1 ba, fireplace, hardwood floors, attached garage, cont. maintenance yard, #99019914  
 Pat Prendiville (510) 758-0314

## RICHMOND VIEW

## LOVELY ONE LEVEL HOME.....\$399,000

2 bdrm 1 ba, spacious landscaped grounds, 1 car garage, access, Clear Pest rpt., newer roof, concrete patio, #99029176  
 Chris Christopher (510) 222-8340

## BAY VIEW/BEAUTIFUL GARDEN.....\$399,000

3+ bdrm 1 ba, 1 car att. garage, large yard, hardwood floors, area, basement, updated kitchen, #99025400  
 Ed Messner (510) 799-3527

## EL CERRITO BORDER/BAY VIEW.....\$399,000

4 bdrm 3 ba, almost 1500 sq. ft., panoramic views, both remodeled, lrg. master suite, family rm, cottage in back, carpet, & paint #99034352  
 Gary Torretta (510) 222-8870, ext. 220

## BERKELEY

## CENTRAL BERKELEY FARM HOUSE.....\$399,000

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# Feeling a draft? It's time to catch up on caulking

THERE ISN'T a better time than right now to caulk your home's exterior, because cracks and gaps on the outside of your house are at their widest point. They are narrower in the winter and wider in the summer. Caulking when gaps are at their widest point minimizes the amount of expansion and contraction of the caulking. Even if you wait until next year, you'll want to do a quick walk around the house to see if anything needs to be patched up this season.

It's important as when to caulk because what kind of caulking you choose is as good as another. Various tasks require different types of caulking. For example, caulking is very flexible and sticks to most surfaces. If you wish to use silicone, be sure to use the "paintable" kind. Not all caulking is paintable.

If you don't mind spending a little more money, choose polyurethane caulking instead. Polyurethane is that 50-year caulking that everyone talks about. It sticks to just about anything, dries slowly, paintable finish and, under normal conditions, will last for years. Polyurethane is especially good for patching tar and gravel and for concrete and masonry.

For wet areas that don't have to be painted, try butyl caulking. It's sticky and sticky, but it never sheds water as well as a polyurethane.

## Paintability is key

Caulking must always be applied to a clean, dry surface. Don't caulk over the surface of an old bead of caulking, thinking to apply a new one on top of it, and then expect the old caulking to hold. Remove old caulking with a can opener, scraper, or scraper, and apply

## On the House

By Morris and James Carey

new caulking directly to the surfaces you wish to seal. Removing the old caulking also will render a neater-looking finished product.

For leaks between the moving section of the window and the window frame, you can use temporary or reusable caulking. Both can be easily removed at winter's end, and, in the event of a fire, temporarily caulked windows can be easily opened for a quick emergency escape. By the way, windows that are permanently caulked or painted shut probably won't open in the event of an emergency.

There's a trick to everything—even when it comes to properly opening a tube of caulking. There are four easy steps to success: Cut a small opening first. Once narrow gaps have been sealed, you can enlarge the hole as necessary to handle bigger gaps.

Open the tube by cutting off the tip at a 45-degree angle.

Now you can mount the tube into the caulking gun. Note: The cut side of the tip and the handle of the caulking gun should both be facing in the same direction.

## Break the seal

Next, use a long nail, an awl or an ice pick to perforate the foil seal inside the tip at its base.

Using a caulking gun also requires a little skill.

As you caulk, hold the tube at a 45-degree angle to the surface being caulked. The tube tip will act like a putty knife, forcing the caulking deep into the crack, as it passes.

Squeeze the trigger firmly, slowly and consistently until caulking begins to flow from the tip.

Once it begins to flow, move the tip at an even pace along the gap,

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## HILLS NEWSPAPERS

trying your best to keep the bead a uniform size.

With caulking, less is more. You can always go back and add more, but a mess results when too much is used.

Just a few inches before you reach the end of your repair, press the plunger release lever. Caulking will continue to flow for another moment or two.

Finally, when you're all done, you can use a red cap to create an

airtight seal at the tip so that your leftover caulking won't dry out.

Pittsburg contractors Morris and James O. Carey can be heard Saturday mornings on KSFO 560 AM. Write the Carey Brothers, c/o the Associated Press, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020-1666, or e-mail them at careybro@onthehouse.com. Their Web site is at [www.onthehouse.com](http://www.onthehouse.com).

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**Sherry L. Long**  
VM: 510-869-4245  
Email: slongmc@aol.com

**Alice Wong-Roth**  
VM: 510-869-4240  
Email: [alice.wong\\_roth@ebdri.com](mailto:alice.wong_roth@ebdri.com)

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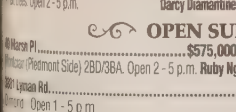
## PIEDMONT & OAKLAND • 510.339.4700



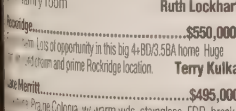
**11111 Glenview Ct., Montclair** .....\$392,500  
Newly built Sunny 4BD/2.5BA remodeled Piedmont Pines home with oak floors, hardwood flrs, mstr ste, level out to sunny deck & yd, bay window. Open 2-5 p.m.  
Dian Hymer



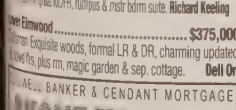
**11111 Proctor Ave., Rockridge** .....\$550,000  
Newly built Sunny 4BD/2.5BA formal DR, numpus rms, 2 FP's, hardwood ceiling, French doors & lg yd w/patio, level lawns. Open 2-5 p.m.  
Darcy Diamantine



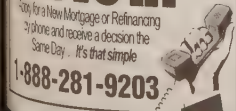
**11111 Glenview Pl., Piedmont** .....\$575,000  
Newly built Sunny 4BD/2.5BA Open 2-5 p.m. Ruby Ng



**11111 Glenview Pl., Piedmont** .....\$575,000  
Newly built Sunny 4BD/2.5BA Open 2-5 p.m. Ruby Ng



**11111 Glenview Pl., Piedmont** .....\$575,000  
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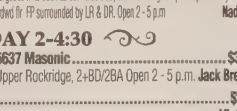
**11111 Glenview Pl., Piedmont** .....\$575,000  
Newly built Sunny 4BD/2.5BA Open 2-5 p.m. Ruby Ng



**1610 Leimert, Oakmore** .....\$369,000  
What Ambiance! Just listed! Sunny 1939 trad. w/lovely garden. Spacious formal rms. 2BD/1BA. Grt rec rm w/2nd FP. A must see! Open 2-5 p.m.  
Ruby Ng/Karen Lum



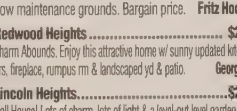
**6265 Virgo Rd., Montclair** .....\$989,000  
Spectacular SF & bay views from this 2 yr. old contemporary w/ fabulous garden & inter-connected decks. 4BD/3.5BA, FR. Dell Orr



**5399 Belgrave, Rockridge** .....\$429,000  
Location, Location. Completely remodeled home. Beautiful outside area w/ partial views. Perfect inside. David Eckert



**4500 Fair Ave., Upper Laurel** .....\$279,500  
Gorgeous in a hot, fab sun-filled trad. 3BD/2BA + lg numpus. Open & airy w/ gleaming hardwood flrs. PP surrounded by LR & DR. Open 2-5 p.m.  
Nader Davari



**5637 Masonic, Rockridge** .....\$385,000  
Upper Rockridge, 2+BD/2BA Open 2-5 p.m. Jack Brennan



**5637 Masonic, Rockridge** .....\$385,000  
Upper Rockridge, 2+BD/2BA Open 2-5 p.m. Jack Brennan

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## PREVIEW



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George Karsant



**MODERN MASTERPIECE** .....\$2,000,000  
BERKELEY HILLS.....  
JUST LISTED! Golden Gate views! Custom dramatic radial design. 5BD/4BA, full of wood, glass granite and sunlight. Every room, wall and corner is custom designed. Completed in 1980. Sited on a totally private, fully landscaped .5 acre lot.  
The Longs

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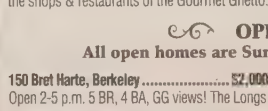
## COLDWELL BANKER

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

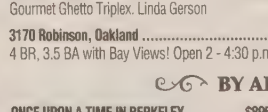
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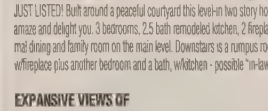
**150 Bret Harte, Berkeley** .....\$2,000,000  
Open 2-5 p.m. 5 BR, 4 BA, GG views! The Longs



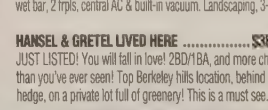
**2800 Shasta, Berkeley** .....\$385,000  
Hansel & Gretel lived here! 2BD/1BA. Lydia Nelson



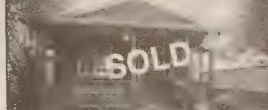
**1437 Oxford, Berkeley** .....\$525,000  
Gourmet Ghetto Triplex. Linda Gerson



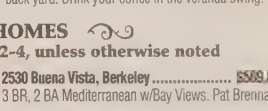
**3170 Robinson, Oakland** .....\$549,000  
4 BR, 3.5 BA with Bay Views! Open 2-4:30 p.m. Chris Cohn



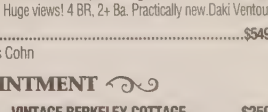
**ONCE UPON A TIME IN BERKELEY** .....\$895,000  
Magnificent late 1800's piece of history, this colonial revival was originally built for a sea captain. Now it consists of 11+ units with a fabulous owner's unit. Beautifully maintained with imported interior woodwork, 3 fireplaces & solar heating system.



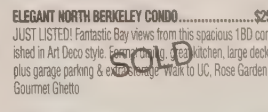
**SO UNBELIEVABLY CHARMING** .....\$239,000  
JUST LISTED! Adorable 2BD/1BA cottage built in 1992! Modern system throughout, full of Berkeley character, Wood fls, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, private from & back yard. Drink your coffee in the veranda swing!



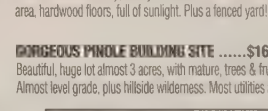
**2530 Buena Vista, Berkeley** .....\$509,000  
3 BR, 2 BA Mediterranean w/Bay Views. Pat Brennan



**2808 Hillegas #5, Berkeley** .....\$239,000  
Penthouse with Bay View, 1 BR. Kim Marienhal



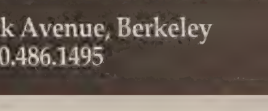
**35 Contra Costa, Rockridge** .....\$896,000  
Huge views! 4 BR, 2+ BA. Practically new. Daki Ventoulis



**VINTAGE BERKELEY COTTAGE** .....\$259,000  
Cute, two story cottage in North Berkeley, walk to BART, campus or downtown. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, formal dining, country kitchen, study & deck.



**ELEGANT NORTH BERKELEY CONDO** .....\$250,000  
JUST LISTED! Fantastic Bay views from this spacious 1BD condo finished in Art Deco style. Full kitchen, large deck & yard, plus garage parking & extra storage. Walk to UC, Rose Garden or Gourmet Ghetto



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# Fyi

## A MATERIAL ADVANTAGE

Let's draw a composite picture of your home. These days, less and less wood and steel are going into doors, shingles and other parts of your house. Materials made of fiber, resins and plastics — especially glass-fiber and carbon-fiber materials — are being used instead. A designer model ranch house in Cupertino features composite shingle siding that looks like wood, won't fade or rot, and is fire-resistant.

## A REAL BLIND DATE

Let's see: You've got the gold coins under the mattress, the canned food and bottled water in the pantry, and the gasoline-powered generator in the basement. Fine, but what about the really important possible Y2K problems? Such as, will your VCR stop recording when the clock hits 2000? No, but if it's an older model that displays the date, you may have to reprogram it, Good Housekeeping magazine says. Ditto for older fax machines, cameras, camcorders, thermostats, security systems and cellular and cordless phones. Again, they won't stop working — but you won't be able to set your calendar watch by them.

## DREAMY BATHROOMS

It's a book that can interpret dreams. That's how the folks at American Standard like to think of their new publication, "The Collection." In reality, it's a book of bath and kitchen ideas. One glance at all the beautiful things you can put in your kitchen and bath and you'll want to run out and buy all those

American Standard products.

That's also what the American Standard folks think. It's their dream. And the best part of this good book for dreaming and for ideas is that it's free. Call 800-524-9797, Ext. 199.

## NO MAN RENT ASUNDER?

Can a landlord refuse to rent to unmarried couples for religious reasons? In San Francisco, the nation's largest federal appeals court has agreed to reconsider a previous ruling that allowed landlords to do so.

## VIRTUALLY NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Using bits instead of bricks, digital construction workers can recreate a city, down to the tiniest detail. When completed, you can walk, drive or fly through it just as freely and realistically as in the real world. Such computer recreations, which have been done in Philadelphia, San Francisco, Berlin and elsewhere, could revolutionize urban planning, emergency preparedness and tourism. "The opportunity is the integration of all the data and knowledge about a city," said the San Diego Supercomputer Center's director of scientific visualization.

## ATTIC EXECUTIVES

With the boom in home-based businesses comes a search for home office space. One option is to locate the office at the top of the house — in the attic. Steven Spurlock and Joseph Wnuk of Washington put a small attic space to work in a design that brings light down through the roof and tucks bookshelves in a low knee wall.

An attic makes a good home office space, says Spurlock, because "there's volume in the center, but the space is low around the edges."

— Compiled by Julie Snippen



## Family room goes high-tech

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY since the days of console television sets. Designing a family room back then was deciding where to place it. Today's family rooms are well-designed media centers with forethought going into not only the placement of a giant-screen television but of essential wiring as well. Speaker placement and wiring for surround-sound, including powerful subwoofers, must take into account where the

furniture will be situated to best face the screen. Other wiring includes cable and telephone, both of which now interact with video sets, allowing homeowners to surf the Web and answer the phone with a push of a button from the sofa. This inviting family room was designed to make focal points of the media center and the stone fireplace. The screen TV is faced with custom cabinetry.

## Refinishing wood cabinets is hard, time-consuming work

ORLANDO SENTINEL

**Q:** We recently bought a unit in an older condominium complex. Our kitchen cabinets are oak and very nice, but the wood is dark. Because the kitchen is small, I would like to lighten it up. But I don't want to replace the cabinets, nor do I want to paint over the wood.

**A:** Is there any way I can lighten the

## ASK THE REMODELER

**look?** Can the wood be bleached or lightened in any way?

**A:** Refinishing kitchen cabinets is not easy. Some professionals have been known to charge as much as

50 percent or more of the cost of new cabinets to refinish old ones. So allow yourself a lot of time and patience, or consult a professional.

First, a heavy-bodied paste stripper must be applied twice or more, usually with No. 2 or 3 steel wool to remove the bulk of the finish and color.

Next, the surface must be washed with lacquer thinner or denatured al-

cohol to remove the old color that likely remains deep in the wood after stripping. The first wash also cleans the wood of any remaining dried chemicals. Then the cabinets should be sanded in a manner appropriate with your needs.

If your cabinets already are in good condition, then coarse paper may not be necessary. Be sure to fill any holes,

scratches and dents with a wood filler or a combination made from sanding dust and airplane glue. Always sand with, not against, the grain.

Next, raise the grain with a paper towel dampened with water. This cleans the wood of any sanding dust. Sand once more lightly with fine paper to remove the grain that has risen. Wipe the cabinets thoroughly

with a tack rag to remove

To apply color, use a water-based stain, a gel stain, an oil-based stain or a combination of the three. To perfect, follow this with a clear lacquer, lacquer, varnish or polyurethane.

— Sandi Upright, building contractor, Orlando, Fla.

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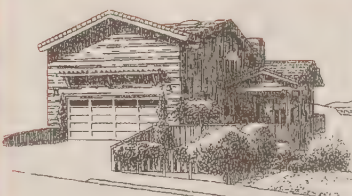
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**NEW LISTING** .....\$369,000  
All level 3bd/2 bath Redwood Heights home with Bay View, private back yard, piano sized living room, eat-in kitchen. Move right in!  
24 Camella Place NAHID NASSIRI 531-1670



**HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!** .....\$365,000  
Lovely 4BD home ready to move into, all level, entry, formal dining room, master bedroom suite, great room with fireplace.  
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Lovely terraced garden with play area comes with 3BD home - plus view of Mt. Tam, formal dining, beautiful, original woodwork in popular neighborhood.  
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Brand new Lafayette construction of utmost beauty and quality 5BD 5BA in a setting of ancient oaks and panoramic views. Elegant, grand feeling throughout. Beautiful soft colors/marble. FRANCISCO 925-837-2200

**RARE LEVEL 5 ACRES** .....\$1,285,000  
Spacious 1 story beauty, 5BD, 3.5 BA, huge gourmet kit., formal LR, formal DR, large FR. Includes 6 stall barn, 4 fenced pastures, fruit trees orchards, convenient Danville/Pleasanton location near Blackhawk. MIRA GOETSCH 925-837-2200

**BE FIRST!** .....\$749,000  
...to live in this unique new home, designed for those who don't want the ordinary. Montclair, 3+BD, 2.5BA, natural ash hardwood flrs, European kitchen with Bosch appliances, two slate decks, designer lighting throughout, landscaped front & rear yards. Walking distance to Montclair Village. NAHID NASSIRI 510-531-1670

**PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP** .....\$629,000  
WOW! Just remodeled Lafayette beauty. 5BD, 3BA with 1BD downstairs. Gleaming hardwood flrs, built-in desk, huge FR, pool, gorgeous grounds, RV parking. FRANCISCO CABRERA 925-837-2200

**29.64 ACRES! SAN RAMON!** .....\$595,000  
4 water falls, 2 springs, community well, hay barn w/ tack room, 5,000 gallon holding tank, electricity. Private paved rd to edge of property. Borders park on 2 sides. Fenced, surveyed. Views. Some seller financing. 140P. RON GATTI 925-837-2200

**LOCATION!** .....\$518,000  
Wonderful 4BD, 3BA home on large private San Ramon lot. New garage doors, interior paint. 3 year new roof. Close to schools, shopping, golf and commute access. BARBARA SCHNEIDER 925-837-2200

**BEST OF BOTH WORLDS** .....\$445,000  
The charm of an established neighborhood and the look of a new home! Remodeled kitchen and baths and new carpeting and tile floors. 5 bedrooms in desired Walnut Creek location near Alamo. GRINNY REEVES 425-4000

**501 INDIAN HOME ROAD** .....\$420,000  
Cute house in Sycamore, totally updated & painted w/ bright 01 and 02 breakfast bar, eating area & pullout drawers in kit., built-in 2 bedrooms, new air conditioning & more. Open Sat. & Sun. LEE HOLM 925-837-2200

**VICTORIAN LOOKING FOR AN OWNER** .....\$240,000  
A bonus, too. Legal rental unit down for office or income. The owner is there, just needs a little TLC. Along w/ a great location, this is a gem. MICHAEL HARDING 510-287-9585

**SHOWS BEAUTIFULLY** .....\$240,000  
Impeccably maintained w/ fabulous San Ramon curb appeal. Completely remodeled kit., lovely pool, tile roof. Neutral colors throughout. 4BD, 2BA. Absolutely great yard. JIM SWEENEY 925-837-2200

**READY TO MOVE INTO REDWOOD HEIGHTS** .....\$277,000  
Newly remodeled 3+BD located in the popular Redwood Heights. Great neighborhood close to freeway and shops. 3517 Victor PEARL WONG 510-485-0100

**GLENVIEW CHARM** .....\$199,000  
Just listed! Cute charmer in desirable Glenview. 2-BD, sunny room. Spacious kit., big basement & yard. ARNOLD MUELLER 510-485-0100

**WHY RENT WHEN YOU CAN OWN** .....\$114,000  
Fill this gleaming 1BD condo located in a convenient area. Spacious rooms in immaculate condition. PEARL WONG 510-485-0100

**PRICE REDUCED! MONTCLAIR LOT** .....\$550,000  
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## Rooms

FROM PAGE B1

room climate can take a toll on a homeowner.

In its Delaware County, Penn., location, the Florida room is more enclosed porch. The room, which has six large windows, extends off the kitchen and increases living space by 180 square feet.

Debbie Whitehead sees her Florida room not as a place to throw furniture, but as a place to "relax on the sofa," a bright, airy room where she can sip tea. Its location near the kitchen will give her the chance to talk to the couple's two children while they are doing their homework as she prepares dinner.

The Whiteheads' enthusiasm points to the growing trend in residential construction to incorporate special rooms or places in the floor plan.

"We offer at least 15 options in houses that qualify as 'special rooms,'" said Kira McCarron, Toll's vice president of marketing. "They can be spaces off the living room that appear in numerous configurations or guises, or as 'bump-outs' in the standard floor plans."

Among them is a two-story conservatory that not only offers a large, airy and luxurious space for entertaining on the first level, but also accommodates two large and luxurious back-to-back secondary bedrooms with sitting areas on the second level.

There are sunrooms and solariums. When there are greenhouses, which, according to McCarron, can be a bump-out off the kitchen in the back of the house instead of a deck, or in addition to one.

Ideas are unlimited, especially if

you have the money.

The conservatories usually are relegated to the front of the house, while solariums and sunrooms usually appear at the rear.

"This is what is meant by retreat and elite," she said. "The elite rooms like the conservatory are part of the front elevation of these houses. They give the house curb appeal. The retreat rooms are places where the family can gather out of the public eye and cocoon, just like they have since the 1980s."

### Ubiquitous 'bonus' room

Then there are "bonus rooms," which aren't really rooms at all. They are just spaces that will become something when the homeowner needs them.

Bonus space is probably one of the most popular options in new construction, because it gives the buyer the option of having room to grow without having to decide what to build and pay up-front for it.

"Bonus rooms can be anything and everything," McCarron said. In Texas, where houses typically have no basements and a second floor or loft area is often known as a "Texas basement," the bonus space often accommodates a playroom — a popular touch that Toll has begun offering as an option elsewhere.

The bonus space often becomes an in-law suite, or a room for a "boomerang" child — one who appears at the door when he or she is between apartments, schools or careers. It is also used for storage, home offices, exercise rooms or nothing at all.

The demand for special rooms has meant that traditional rooms have lost some of their appeal. For example, living rooms have gotten smaller over the years as family rooms have grown larger and more

**The demand for special rooms has meant that traditional rooms have lost some of their appeal. For example, living rooms have gotten smaller over the years as family rooms have grown larger and more important.**

important.

However, the desire for formal space once provided by the living room has manifested itself in the conservatory, with its large windows and high ceilings — almost like the drawing rooms in English manor houses.

### What works in one area ...

Part of the reason behind the interest in special rooms is "cross-pollination." Builders such as Pulte and Toll, which started out in Michigan and Pennsylvania, respectively, have expanded into other areas, and have brought ideas from one market to others.

Sometimes, these ideas catch on. Most Texas houses, for example, are built on steel-reinforced concrete slabs, because the soil is so unstable. But Toll introduced walkout basements to the Dallas market, and has created a niche for itself.

Toll follows a region's prevailing

house features and introduces elements that are popular in other places as options to see whether they will work.

"If they don't work, they remain options; if they do, they become standard features," McCarron said. As an example, she recalled a California wrought-iron railing overlook that was introduced in the Northeast without much success.

"It just hasn't been purchased in volumes we were anticipating," she said. "But it remains popular in California, Arizona and Florida."

Regions share a few preferences. One is house size. According to a recent survey by the National Association of Home Builders, buyers in all regions are looking for houses with more than 2,000 square feet of living space. They also prefer to pay no more than \$200,000 for whatever

they buy.

### Regional preferences

In a 1996 survey, Professional Builder magazine found that people in the Northeast liked to entertain formally, and preferred a formal living room and dining room and a separate family room instead of a "great room" with an eating area.

The typical Northeast buyer preferred a traditional two-story with three bedrooms and two baths, the magazine reported. If the builder could add 100 square feet of living space to a house, buyers would want it in the family room or living room.

In the Midwest, comfortable family living rather than formality was the preference. Midwesterners preferred a great room, and their 100 square feet of extra space would be in the family room or kitchen, the

magazine reported. The typical house was two stories and brick.

Southerners preferred informal living in a one-story traditional brick house. Buyers wanted a great room and were evenly split on whether they wanted it with an eating area or a formal dining area. If the builder could add 100 square feet, the Southern buyer would want it in the family room.

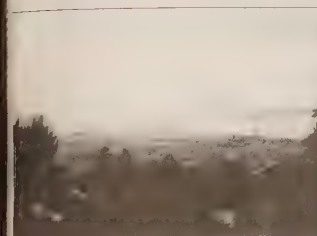
And in the West, half of those surveyed by the magazine wanted a detached house, while 30 percent would have built a custom house. A single-story traditional-style house with a stucco exterior was favored.

And then there's the Florida room. If they build them to look like they look in Northeast — who knows? Maybe they'll want them in Florida again.

## WELLS BENNETT REALTORS

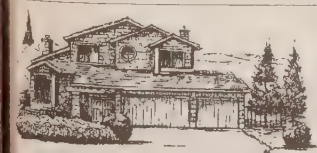
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**2954 MADELINE.....\$219,000**  
Picture perfect 2 bedroom. Remodeled kitchen and bath. Fireplace, central heat, skylights, garage, sunny deck and fenced yard.  
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**3760 - 39TH AVENUE UNIT "F".....\$165,000**  
Two-Story townhouse. Built in 1993. Only 10 units in complex. About 1100 sq. ft. 2BR, 2BA, LR w/FP, European style, & full basement. Gated entrance. Seller will credit for buyers closing cost. \$142/mo HO dues. Walk to shopping, restaurants, and bus line to BART, S.F., and downtown Oakland business district. First-time buyers welcome!

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Five-plex with 2 bedroom/1 bath each. SFR with 3 bedroom/2 bath. \$57K GI. Includes pest control clearance. On busline to Fruitvale BART.  
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Great level-in downslope in neighborhood of \$800-\$900K homes. In excess of 10,000 sq. ft. Soil report available. Please call for more information.  
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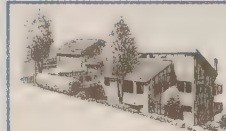
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**OAKLAND / PIEDMONT**

**\* Open Sunday.....\$895,000**  
6580 Oakwood Dr. Architectural masterpiece. 3BR, 3BA with framed view of S.F. and Golden Gate.  
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Beautiful 4BR, 2.5BA Spanish/Mediterranean in central Piedmont! Charming and updated. Walk to schools/transportation.  
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6818 Charing Cross. Brand new 3+BR, 2.5BA gourmet kitchen. Convenient location, South Bay views.  
Y. Ben-David 510-339-9290



**\* Open Sunday \$550,000**  
6625 Aitken Drive. 3BR, 2.5BA remodeled kitchen, large master suite with fireplace. Serene setting.  
Long/Wong - Roth 510-339-9290



**1993 Craftsman Style \$499,000**  
Architect built with love and care. Gorgeous wood. 3BR, 2.5 BA, family room, den, eat in kitchen, everything!  
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**Elegant & Serene.....\$424,000**  
A stylish retreat nestled in the trees. 3BR, 2.5BA, immaculate, private yet 2 minutes to the Village.  
Mary Canavan 510-527-2012, 510-849-3711

**\* Open Sunday Glenview.....\$395,000**  
4335 Leach. 5BR, 2BA with big living room and family room. Some views, fresh paint. Seller will clear pest.  
Craig Shane 510-339-9290

**Crocker Highlands...\$350,000**  
Space, charm, great location, large rooms. 3BR with beautiful living room with fireplace plus room for office/4th bedroom. Very nice interior. Not a drive-by. Hardwood floors.  
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**Charming Craftsman.....\$267,000**  
Rockridge/Oakland 315 Hemphill Place, 2BR, 1BA charming!  
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Large six bedroom home with two full baths and two half baths. Formal dining room and garage.  
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**\* Open Sunday.....\$238,000**  
3901 Holmes Ave. First time on market in over 40 years. 3BR, 2BA country house in the city.  
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28 Lofts available in the Clauson School building. Huge windows, high ceilings, close to shops and transportation.  
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2001 42nd Ave. Just listed! 4BR, 1+BA. Elegant refurbished. Brown shingle with old world charm.  
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**Lake Merritt Condo.....\$190,000**  
Enjoy spacious 2BR, 2BA, 1409 sq. ft. Condo. Cozy fireplace, wide hall for art gallery. Huge deck, newly redone, move in.  
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Great 3BR, 1BA above MacArthur. Hardwood floors throughout, view, large back yard, attached garage!  
Sandy Starkey 510-287-5590

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683-35 th St. Open Sunday 2 - 4pm. 2BR, 1BA formal dining, fireplace, large living room, yard, near Emeryville.  
Shirley Covington 510-834-2010

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1BR, 1BA All new tile, carpet, paint, bath fixtures. Easy on 580 Hwy. 150 Pearl Street, #103, Open 2-4:30  
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**EMERYVILLE**

**\* Emeryville/Loft.....\$289,000**  
Open 2 - 4. Sun. 1250 Powell #7. Fabulous loft, soaring ceilings, steel, brick and more! Private deck, parking too.  
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South Berkeley in prime location.  
N. Platford 510-845-0200

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## Wired

FROM PAGE B1

■ Took half the time of traditional buyers to find and buy a home; tended to visit only half the number of homes traditional buyers did.

■ Felt better prepared for home buying than did traditional buyers.

■ Were younger, with a median age of 32 vs. 38 for traditional buyers.

■ Were better educated and worked in professional or managerial jobs with higher annual incomes than traditional buyers.

■ Were more than twice as probable to be men than traditional buyers.

■ Purchased more expensive homes than traditional buyers.

One can conclude from these results that Internet buyers are far more likely to work with an agent who has a strong Internet presence than one who does not.

### From the seller's perspective

Even in a hot market, it is to a seller's advantage to maximize the number and quality of offers. Having a home featured on the Internet is becoming as important as it being on the Multiple Listing Service.

It is significant to note that Internet buyers visited individual Realtor Web sites almost as often (89 percent) as company sites (97 percent) to find listings.

When shopping for an agent, remember the difference between having your property displayed on the company site and the agent's per-

sonal site. You want both - it gives you far greater exposure.

In the survey, both Internet and traditional buyers indicated that the particular agent was more important than his real estate firm. This is consistent with my own personal experience — people work with people, not companies.

Before committing to working with an agent, it makes sense to go on the Internet and compare his site to others. Consider these questions:

■ Was it easy to find the agent's Web site? If it was difficult for you, will potential buyers be willing to go through the same hassle?

■ Does the agent have his own, personal, local listings featured? This will indicate whether or not he is doing business in your area.

■ How are the listings displayed? Are there abundant, attractive photographs accompanied by an appealing written description? Is the site interesting and graphically pleasing?

### Personal site vs. part of larger site

Sellers are beginning to notice that many real estate salespeople do not have a Web site. Of those who do, a minority have their own, personal Web site. Others rent space on a large company or commercial host site.

Personal Web sites allow for creativity in design and constant updating. Giant sites, by necessity, have limited options for individual differences. Each agent's page is similar to the others and the individual usually cannot change it significantly.

Many experts agree that having a separate site is preferable because,

**Many experts agree that having a separate site is preferable because, if it has an appropriate domain name and is linked to the right search engines, it can be found more quickly.**

if it has an appropriate domain name and is linked to the right search engines, it can be found more quickly. First and foremost, the speed of acquiring information is what drives the World Wide Web.

### Final thoughts

The importance of the Internet is an undisputed fact. E-commerce is growing exponentially and is radically affecting residential real estate sales both directly and indirectly. Now, and in the future, an increasing number of buyers will select their agent from the Internet.

As part of a listing presentation to a seller, agents talk about their "marketing plan". Many omit their Internet marketing strategy. An individual Internet presence is an indispensable part of any professional agent's arsenal in this Web-centric world. Think about this before choosing your next agent.

For previous articles related to buying and selling homes in this area, visit my Web site at [www.east-bay-realtor.com](http://www.east-bay-realtor.com).

Don Dunning is a 20-year real estate veteran. He is a full-time Realtor and consultant with Wells & Bennett Realtors in Oakland. Call him at (510) 531-7575, ext. 2392.

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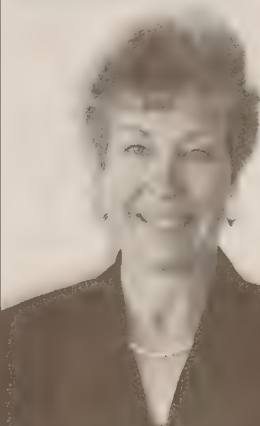
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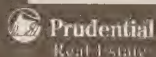
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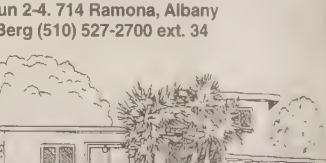
### ELEGANT SIMPLICITY

On a quiet tree-lined street, one block from Colusa shops and restaurants. Sun-filled loft-like living room to ceiling windows, two bedrooms. Updated kitchen opens to private yard, lovely English garden. All in move-in condition. Open Sun 2-4. 1501 Visalia Ave., Albany. Ann Arriola Plant (510) 527-2700, ext. 27



### MEDITERRANEAN IN ALBANY!

A sun filled Mediterranean on a quiet tree-lined street, circa 1931, this house has the quality and charm of an old home from the past, with a tastefully updated kitchen and bath. Split level floor plan provides for two spacious bedrooms, each with a generous closet. A formal breakfast room with china cabinet, and formal adjoining living room and dining room. Downstairs is a large bonus room opening to a back garden. Open Sun 2-4. 714 Ramona, Albany. Kathie Berg (510) 527-2700 ext. 34



### SUNNY & SWEET!

In a great location, convenient to transportation, shopping, schools. Two master suites, eat-in kitchen, laundry, private patio and plenty of storage space in the two-car garage. Beautiful hardwood floors. Move-in condition. Alice McLeish (510) 527-2700 ext. 35.



### DOUBLE SIZED LANDSCAPED CORNER LOT

Situated in the El Cerrito Hills, this spacious 4 bd/3.5 ba style home has bay views, terraced yard and deck. Features include metal roof, rumpus room, jacuzzi bath, hardwood floors, carpet and more... Open Sun 2-4. 6315 Barrett, El Cerrito. Herman Sun 527-9111, 559-2929



### PRIME LOCATION!

This charming 2 bedroom starter home has been tastefully refurbished and freshly painted. Rag roll painted living dining room w/fireplace, separate studio and attached backyard with fruit trees. Convenient to just about everything. Open Sun 2-4. 946 Liberty, El Cerrito. Merrilyn Rhodes 527-9111, 559-2928

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**AMEDA**

[illegible]

ALBANY			
Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
714 Marston Kenzie Acres, Marston Gardens	260/1ba	2-4	\$355,000
5011 Wallis Ave.	510/2	227-2700, 2-4	\$225,000
Aan Arhila Plant, Marlyn Gardens	510/2	227-2700, ext. 27	\$225,000
BERKELEY			
Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price
50 Harite	560/4ba	2-5	\$2,000,000
The Loops, Colwell Banker Berkeley (510) 468-1495	510/1ba		\$450,000
150 Bret Harter	560/4ba	2-5	\$2,000,000
Modern Masterpiece by Hoggan & Lieberman			
Heidi & Jerry Long (510) 655-5113, Colwell Banker			
315 The Plaza Dr.	460/1.5ba	2-4, 2Q	\$679,000
Helen Nicholas, La Salle Properties (510) 339-8900			
2950 Bellevue	4 - b4/2ba	2-4	\$595,000
Jacqueline Wagner, Prudential Cal Realty (510) 524-2526			
2530 Buena Vista	360/2ba	2-4	\$569,000
Pat Brennon, Colwell Banker Berkeley (510) 468-1495			
1437 Oxford	-b4/4ba	2-4	\$525,000
Gourmet Shoppo Lingo			
Leslie Averant, Colwell Banker Berkeley (510) 468-1495			
567 Vassar	360/2ba	2-4, 3Q	\$489,000
Erk Johnson, Prudential (510) 339-9290			
1077 Park Hills	3 - b2/2ba	2-4	\$477,000
Leslie Averant, Templeton Company (510) 652-2133			\$122,000
1077 Park Hills	3 - d1/1ba	2-4	\$479,000
Leslie Averant, Templeton Company (510) 652-2133			\$122,000
566 Grizzly Peak	360/1ba	2-4, 3Q	\$435,000
Land: Michael Childress, Webb & Bennett (510) 531-7000			\$219,000
2600 Shasta	260/1ba	2-4	\$385,000
Lynnda Melzer, Colwell Banker Berkeley (510) 468-1495			
705 Chestnut St.	260/2ba	2-4	\$319,000
Daniel Bigelow, Marvins Gardens (510) 527-2700, ext. 21			\$185,000
2123 Spaulding Ave	360/1ba	2-4, 3Q	\$295,000
Kenzie Road, Pacific Union (510) 233-4333			\$295,000
2111 Prince St.	460/1.1ba	2-4	\$228,000
Kenzie Banker, Berkeley Hills Realty (510) 524-8888			ext. 21
2600 Haightway #5	160/1ba	2-4	\$229,000
Parthoush with Bay View			
Kam Harinathil, Colwell Banker Berkeley (510) 468-1495			
2641 Webster St.	160/1ba	2-4, 3Q	\$141,000
Elwood			
Ronald Egnerman, Templeton Company (510) 652-2133			\$122,000

EMERYVILLE				
Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price	
1250 #F Powell St Miriam Wilson, Prudential Cal Realty (510) 896-9111	1041/sb	2-4	\$269,000	
KENSINGTON				
Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price	
30 Reed Place Phillipa Feldman, Prudential Cal Realty (510) 823-5703	2 + 1/2-b	2-4, 2-30	\$273,000	
293 Grizzly Peak Phyllis Howe, Prudential Cal Realty (510) 273-9444	30d-30	2-4	\$345,000	
OAKLAND				
Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price	
5618 La Salle Ave Piedmont state of Montclair Debra Dryden, The Gubb Co., (510) 339-0400	40d-8a	2-5	\$2,750,000	
122 Stratfordwood Clarence Hagan, J.R. Tarmann Co. (510) 465-5313	40d/3ba	1-6	\$1,175,000	
6265 Virgo Dei Cir., Coldwell Banker Montclair (510) 339-4700	4 + 1/2b/3ba	2-4, 2-30	\$989,500	
6590 Oakwood Dr George Millhouse, Prudential (510) 339-8290	30d/3ba	2-4, 2-30	\$895,000	
14000 Broadway Trn Montclair Patricia Scott, Pacific Union (510) 339-6460	38d/2.5ba	2-4, 2-30	\$895,000	
35 Costa Costa Rochette James Hines, Coldwell Banker Montclair (510) 465-1465	40d/2 - bn	2-4	\$895,000	
1102 Grand View Dr Claremont Hills Joanna Gould, Pacific Union (510) 339-6460	3 + 1/2b/2ba	2-4, 2-30	\$799,000	
6350 Costa Costa Dr Upper Rockledge Dee Knowland, Pacific Union (510) 339-6460	40d/4ba	2-4, 2-30	\$699,000	
1533 Grandview Dr Montclair 1830 Grand View Dr Hiller Highlands Martha Shills, Montclair Better Homes (510) 287-9066	40d-3a	2-4, 2-30	\$650,000	
2053 Bywood Dr Upper Oakmont Wick-Lundberg (510) 865-9343	40d/4.5ba	1-4	\$640,000	
6460 Longport	4 + 1/2b/3ba	2-4, 2-30	\$640,000	

OAKLAND				
Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price	
120 Colvert Ct	3 + 1/2 bds/2s	2-4	\$625,000	
<b>Montclair</b>				
Sheila Gallagher, The Grubbs Co., (510) 339-0400				
570 ATHOLAVE	15 Rm./... Sat. 1-3		\$895,000	
Atwood, Bessing, 13 hrs. 1 left 510-451-7317				
6818 Channing Cross	3 + 1/2 bds/2s	2-4	\$385,000	
W. H. & M. J. Prater, Prater Realty (510) 339-8230				
40 Marsh Pl.	2bd/3bs	2-4	\$75,500	
<b>Piedmont Side</b>				
Ruby Mfg., Coldwell Banker Montclair (510) 339-4700				
6525 Alkivu Dr.	3bd/2 1/2s	2-4	\$550,000	
<b>Montclair</b>				
Langley-Hath, Prater Realty (510) 339-8230				
1500 Fricter	4bd/2 1/2s	2-8	\$350,000	
<b>Ridgeway</b>				
Darcy Diamante, Coldwell Banker Montclair (510) 339-4700				
2170 Robinson	4bd/3 + 1	2-4/30	\$549,000	
Chris Chen, Coldwell Banker Montclair (510) 468-1485				
2111 Pelham Pl.	3br/2 1/2s	2-4/30	\$535,000	
<b>Montclair</b>				
Nancy Chen, Pacific Union (510) 339-6460				
6555 Thornhill Dr.	3br/2 1/2s	2-6	\$495,000	
Lisa Hoshino, Pacific Union (510) 845-4211				
1270 Leimert Blvd.	3bd/2 + 1	2-4/30	\$495,000	
Dees Taboroff, La Salle Properties (510) 533-4086				
5642 Army Dr.	3 + 1/2 bds/2s	2-4	\$469,000	
<b>Upperville</b>				
Hosokawa Team (510) 768-8200				
4457 View Place	4bd/3 1/2s	2-4/30	\$449,000	
<b>Piedmont Area</b>				
Mavis Delcorne, The Grubbs Co., (510) 339-0400				
5399 Belgrave	3br/2 1/2s	2-4/30	\$429,000	
<b>Montclair</b>				
Robert Hart, Coldwell Banker Montclair (510) 339-4700				
4439 Harbor Dr.	2 + 1/2 bds/2s	2-4/30	\$399,000	
<b>Upperville</b>				
Cliff Cohen, Pacific Union (510) 339-6460				
4335 Leach	5bd/2 1/2s	2-4/30	\$395,000	
<b>Claymont</b>				
Greg Crane, Prater Realty (510) 339-8230				
1 Kimberley Ct.	3br/2 1/2s	2-4/30	\$382,500	
<b>Montclair</b>				
Don Hymer, Coldwell Banker Montclair (510) 339-4700				
5637 Masonic	2 + 1/2 bds/2s	2-6	\$385,500	
<b>Upperville</b>				
Robert Hart, Coldwell Banker Montclair (510) 339-4700				
8030 Phyllon Dr.	4bd/2 1/2s	2-4/30	\$372,000	
<b>Seaworth</b>				

OAKLAND					
Address & Realty	Size	Hours	Price		
1610 Laimert	2bd/1 1/2a		5-6	\$380,000	
<b>Danmore</b>					
Baby Mt Karen Lam, Coldwell Banker	Montclair	(510) 339-0000			
7400 Harmon	4bd-1 1/2a	2-4:30		\$385,000	
Seyouah Heights					
Charlotte Claybaugh, Coldwell Banker	Better Homes	(510) 327-2648			
7400 Harmon Dr	Montclair	2-4:30		\$385,000	
Seyouah Heights					
Charlotte Claybaugh, Coldwell Banker	Better Homes	(510) 327-2648			
1472 Homewood Dr	3 bdl/1 1/2a	2-4:30		\$350,000	
Realty Associates, (510) 428-0757					
4172 Lincoln Ave	3 bdl/1 1/2a	Sat. 1-4		\$325,000	
Newfound Heights Paul	(510) 527-0076				
2101 Melvin Rd	3bd/2 1/2a	2-4:30		\$309,000	
Danmore-ls is					
Jeffrey Korman, Pacific Union	(510) 339-6460				
1254 Hampel St	-bd-1 1/2a	2-4:30		\$308,000	
Glenview					
John Kunkanian, The Grubb Co., (510) 339-6400					
373 -4th St	-bd-1 1/2a	2-4:30		\$307,950	
Shirley Sims, Montclair Better Home					
2890 Hiram Ave	3 bdl/2 1/2a	2-4:30		\$299,000	
Wendy Harkin, La Salle Properties	(510) 339-6960				
2525 12th Ave	3 bdl/2 1/2a	2-4:30		\$298,000	
Victor Florn, La Salle Properties	(510) 822-4338				
1020 Sayre Dr	3 bdl/2 1/2a	2-4:30		\$298,000	
Hot Castle, La Salle Properties	(510) 339-9778				
4500 Fair	3 bdl/2 1/2a	2-6		\$279,900	
Upper Layers					
Kelley Doran, Coldwell Banker	Montclair	(510) 329-4700			
3517 Victoria	3 bdl-1 1/2a	2-4:30		\$277,000	
Newfound Heights					
Pearl Wang, Coldwell Banker	Better Homes	(510) 625-6211			
3811 Lyman	-bd-1 1/2a	1-5		\$259,000	
Danmore					
Paul Wang, Coldwell Banker	Montclair	(510) 339-4700			
3811 Lyman	-bd-1 1/2a	1-5		\$259,000	
Windy Fathy, Coldwell Banker	Montclair	(510) 339-4700			
115 Hemphill	2bd-1 1/2a	2-4:30		\$267,000	
UI Liscio, Prudential	(510) 773-9444				
3901 Holmes Ave	3bd/2 1/2a	2-4:30		\$238,000	
Prudential Inc Wang, Prudential	(510) 339-9250				
2554 Modello	2bd/1 1/2a	2-4:30		\$219,000	
Lauri					
Wendy Harkin, Wells & Bennett	(510) 531-7000			\$254	
3240 Parata Ave	-bd-1 1/2a	2-4:15/10		\$220,000	

OAKLAND

Address & Realty

Size

Hours

Price

3756 39th Ave

2nd/1th

2-4:30

\$186,000

Laurel

Frank Henneker, Wells & Bennett (510) 854-6481

2760 39th Ave

2nd/2.5ba

2-4:30

\$165,000

Laurel

Frank Henneker, Wells & Bennett (510) 854-6461

5461 El Camille

2nd/1th

2-4

\$198,950

Faze Upper, Contractors Spec.

Realty World Maritime (510) 523-5300

4544 Tulip Ave

1. bid/1th

2-4

\$145,000

Laurel

Nancy Marshall, Prudential Cal Realty (925) 232-6455

150 Pearl St #103

1st/1th

2-4:30

\$87,500

Dr Allen-Thompson, Prudential (510) 845-0200

PIEDMONT

Address & Realty

Size

Hours

Price

6 Mesa Ave

484/3ba

2-4:30

\$1,195,000

Sandra Vogt, The Grubb Co. (510) 339-0400

401 Wildwood Ave

28d-8a

2-4:30

\$1,195,000

Sandra Vogt, The Grubb Co. (510) 339-0400

24 Sylvan Way

29d/1th

2-4:30

\$485,000

19d/1th rental unit

Ann Nichols, Pacific Union (510) 339-6460

SAN LEANDRO

Address & Realty

Size

Hours

Price

2222 Woodcock

-8d-5a

2-4

\$319,000

Kristyna Nowak, Kane Realty (510) 483-1676

2222 Woodcock

-8d-8a

2-4

\$319,000

Kristyna Nowak, Kane Realty (510) 483-1676

2222 Woodcock

-8d-8a

2-4

\$319,000

Saturday Open House

Kristyna Nowak, Kane Realty (510) 483-1676

14492 Cypress St

36d/1.5ba

1-3

\$274,900

Bonnie

Home-Link Team (510) 748-5300

16735 Panoramic Wy

36d/1.5ba

1-3

\$258,000

Home-Link Team (510) 748-5300

**Advertise in the Open Home Guide!**  
The Montclarion, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice,  
The Journal & The Alameda Journal  
**CALL 748-1688 or FAX 748-1665**  
*\*unless otherwise indicated*

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**Cruising for a car?      Hunting for a home?      Pursuing a position?      Searching for savings?**

Now you can select from thousands of ads instead of just a few. Your new, improved Hills Classifieds includes the expansive Contra Costa Newspapers marketplace – giving you more inventory, more listings, more jobs, more private party ads. Plus: you can find classifieds online at **[www.hotcoco.com](http://www.hotcoco.com)**

**To place an ad, call 339-8777. For Alameda call 748-1667.**

# HILLS Classifieds















## The largest employment classified section in the greater East Bay Area

www.hotcoco.com/jobs

250 Help Wanted

Project Billing

Coordinator

Project Billing

Coordinator

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Coordinator

## 250 Help Wanted

## ACCOUNTING

Staff Accountant, 30-40K.

AP, AR, GL, Fixed Assets, and

childcare. Must be a CPA or

have 2-4 yrs. exp. Fax resume to

Messa at 925-939-3774.

## ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Exp. to handle all aspects of

AP, including vendor

statements, invoices, and

payments. Fax resume to

Messa at 925-939-3774.

## ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Auditor, detail oriented. Com-

puter literate, self starter.

Fax resume to salary req.

925-939-3774.

## ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Natl. Insurance Co. Western

California has position for

detail entry person. Fax

resume to 925-939-3774.

## ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

F/T entry m. pos. w/ fast

growing, env. friendly

processes, excellent

benefits. Fax resume to

Messa at 925-939-3774.

## ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

First-class retirement center

in Blackhawk seeks energetic,

creative and reliable

person to manage all

aspects of the center's

financial operations. Fax

resume to 925-939-3774.

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First-class retirement center

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## ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

First-class retirement center

in Blackhawk seeks energetic,

creative and reliable

## 250 Help Wanted

## ADMINISTRATIVE/HOUSE

Mgmt. Admin. housewife

managing bus. home &amp;

children. 925-939-3774.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Enthusiastic person with

strong computer skills.

Must payroll experience a

plus. Fax resume to

Messa at 925-939-3774.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

Looking for high tech

person? Growing internet co.

in Walnut Creek has immediate

turnover openings for

admin. assist. &amp; receptionist.

Excel, Word, PPT, call

at 925-939-3774.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

Career Opportunity

Customer service oriented.

Self motivated &amp; detail

oriented. 925-939-3774.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

For busy multi-industry

exec in W. Valley. Variety

of assignments, excellent

benefits. Fax resume to

Messa at 925-939-3774.

## ADMINISTRATIVE

Stedim, Inc. world leader

in sterile single use plastic

containers for the biophar-

maceutical industry seeks an

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT to

provide administrative

support. Fax resume to

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## 250 Help Wanted

## ADMINISTRATIVE

Science Project

Coordinator. Exp. to assist

with all aspects of the

project. Fax resume to

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## ADMINISTRATIVE

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## ADMINISTRATIVE



## FEATURED HOME OF THE WEEK



2556 LEIMERT

## Wilderness paradise awaits

This storybook home is a dream come true. Spectacular redwood living room with two story ceilings, balconies and stairways that lead to romantic corners and a master bedroom with fireplace. A slate roof, sprawling oaks and stately redwoods set the stage for a cozy hideaway.

Topping off this treat: waterfalls, a sparkling pool and children's sport court. And it's all just five minutes from Montclair Village.

For more information, call Doris Gaboloff at LaSalle Properties, 510-339-4086.

## Red Oak opens on College

Red Oak Realty announces the opening of its Elmwood office at 2983 College Ave., Berkeley. The company took over and renovated the former site of Starr Realty, a College Avenue fixture since 1945.

The new office officially opened its doors on Nov. 11, with an open house for clients, merchants and the general public Saturday.

"We are very excited to have a presence in the Elmwood. Red Oak has always been active in this community," said Laurie Capitelli, manager. "We now have locations at two of Berkeley's prime locations, Solano and College. We think this office will provide a valuable and needed service to our Berkeley clients, particularly those in the Elmwood and Claremont neighborhoods."

Red Oak began operations in Albany in 1976. After its move to its current Solano Avenue location in 1978, the company grew to become the area's largest independent firm, and one of the most productive offices in the Bay Area.



AGENTS OPENING Red Oak's College Avenue site are (from left to right) Saraya Motley, Laurie Capitelli (manager), Brenda McCauley, Warwick May, Marjorie Sperber, Nancy Hoover, Charlie Cook, Julie Cook and Sheri Brewer. Not pictured are Elizabeth Hibbard, Gwen Hoople and Susan Reese.

Reduce, reuse, recycle

**Gallagher and Lindsey, Inc.**  
521-8181 523-1010

## OAKLAND

OPEN SUN. 2-4. 801 NORTHVALE RD.— TRESTLE GLEN/SUNNY HILLS AREA. New kitchen & bath, refinished hardwood floors, 3+ bedrooms. 2.5 baths, extra rooms in basement, double car garage redwood deck. Security system. Kitty Wan 748-1128

1220 DERBY— NEAR FRUITVALE BART STATION. Corner of E. 12th & Derby, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, includes 2 additional lots —\$250,000. Eddie Fagrey, 301-1010 pager 291-9401.

4257 MASTERSON ST. Large lot, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. \$165,000. Al Wagner, 748-1123

We speak Mandarin, Cantonese and English  
我們精通國、粵、英語 Patsy Chan • 521-9614 Kitty Wan • 521-8181 x1128

3038 SCHOOL ST. — NEWLY REFURBISHED. 2 bedroom home, spacious living & dining room, and a work area in the 2+ car garage. Moon Tam, 747-1620.

FLORENCE AVE. — NEW PRICE! 1/4 ACRE LOT ON UNPAVED ROAD. Below the Warren Freeway. Ed Fagrey, 530-3140.

## BERKELEY

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# SPORTS

JV

Friday, November 19, 1999

Section C

## Gauchos score a perfect 10

El Cerrito's 10-0 record gains No. 1 seed and a rematch against St. Mary's tonight

By Joe Wolfcale

EL CERRITO — It may have been appropriate, but the celebratory ice-cold Gatorade shower that traditionally marks an important win will have to wait for El Cerrito High School football coach Frank Milo.

After watching his team dismantle Richmond 44-16 last Friday afternoon to complete his first 10-0 record in 18 seasons as the head coach of the Gauchos, Milo accepted congratulations from administrators, parents and players before quietly walking off the field.

Milo knows the playoffs are ahead and it would be better to celebrate in three weeks if El Cerrito (10-0, 8-0) wins the North Coast Section 2A East Bay title.

Still, the win was special. As the band played and players raised their helmets in unison and applauded, Milo sought out his family and close friends. He got

"I really don't know what to say right now, except that this is one great feeling."

El Cerrito football coach Frank Milo

a little emotional when asked to put the moment in perspective.

"I really don't know what to say right now, except that this is one great feeling," said Milo, whose team secured the No. 1 seed in the NCS 2A playoffs thanks to its perfect regular season.

Milo didn't figure to have to do much talking at the NCS seeding meeting, held Sunday at Dublin High School.

"We'll go to the meeting and let our

See GAUCHOS, Page C2

## Unstoppable Albany

Cougars win sixth straight league title; team gets top seed in NCS playoffs

By Mike McGreehan

Albany High was probably a little surprised to see Alameda playing in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League volleyball final Saturday afternoon.

Alameda upset No. 2 seed Piedmont in semifinal play the night before in a four-game match and was now playing in its home gym.

Albany reached the league championship match by beating No. 4 seed Holy Names in three games in the other semifinal. In some ways it didn't matter who the Cougars played in the final.

Albany defeated Alameda 15-4, 15-6, 15-6 to win the ACCAL title for the sixth straight season.

"The kids did a good job," said Albany coach Konrad Ott. "There's a long-standing tradition that started seven years ago and we talked about that. We haven't lost a game, much less a match, in league in four years. Anyone who is into the game of volleyball knows how hard that is."

Fast start

Albany got off to a fast start in the first

See ALBANY, Page C2



"We haven't lost a game, much less a match, in league in four years. Anyone who is into the game of volleyball knows how hard that is."

Albany coach Konrad Ott

ALBANY'S LAURA JENSEN, above, right, and Stacey Phelps, above left, go up for the block during the league volleyball playoffs last weekend. EUNJI KIM, below, gets a team hug as the Cougars celebrated their sixth straight league title.

## Panthers beat Dons to reach playoffs

Despite upset win St. Mary's seeded last and must play tonight at No. 1 El Cerrito

By Peter Mentor and Ethan Sprague

Win the big one, get the shaft.

St. Mary's High football coach Dan Shaughnessy had a nonchalant attitude toward the North Coast Section seeding committee placing his team last among the eight teams in the NCS 2A football playoffs.

After all, the Panthers were just happy to get into the playoffs after their 31-30 upset victory over De Anza last Saturday in Berkeley.

The seeding committee didn't think

too much of the Panthers' big win. They gave De Anza (8-2) the No. 4 seed against No. 5 Campolindo (8-2) and a not-so-neutral game site at nearby El Cerrito High.

In the meantime St. Mary's was pushed to the No. 8 seed and must play at No. 1 seed El Cerrito (10-0), tonight at 7:30.

"That's OK, that's all right," said Shaughnessy. "That shows you what the guys on the other side of the hill think. They say, 'Hey, Shag is not afraid to play them.' You have to go through the No. 1 team sometime."

See PANTHERS, Page C2

## Panthers run second at league

Cougars take fifth, Gauchos seventh in championship meet

By Peter Mentor

ALAMEDA — St. Mary's runners were hindered by illness at the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League championship meet run last week, but they get another shot on Saturday to show they still have what it takes to beat Piedmont.

The Panthers almost won the regular-season cross country, but they lost it to the Highlanders on a sixth-man tie-breaker in the last race of the regular season at Tilden Park on Oct. 28.

Last Thursday the Highlanders simply ran away from the Panthers to win the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League varsity boys cross country championships at Crab Cove.

Piedmont scored 28 points by placing eight runners in the top 12 overall, beating St. Mary's (47 points) by a healthy 19-point margin. Add that to the regular-season title and the Highlanders are the undisputed league champions.

St. Joseph was third with 70 points, followed by Alameda, 9 points, Albany in fifth at 154 points. Salesian next at 181 and El Cerrito taking seventh at 196 points.

St. Mary's had most of its runners sick

See CROSS COUNTRY, Page C2



BRIDGET DUFFY paced the Lady Panthers to their first-ever ACCAL cross country championship by winning the meet last week at Crab Cove.

## St. Mary's cross country coronation

Duffy's win leads Lady Panthers to title at league cross country championships

By Peter Mentor

ference during the race."

Duffy wins

ALAMEDA — St. Mary's opened the door for an upset, but no one came knocking.

The Lady Panthers, who swept all three regular-season races this season, had two runners suffer cramps at the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League championship at Crab Cove last Wednesday.

St. Mary's Nos. 2 and 3 runners Christina Chavez and Sayaka Matsumoto fell back in the race, and neither Piedmont nor Alameda could take advantage of the Lady Panthers Mary's woes.

Those three teams took 16 of the first 17 places in the race, but St. Mary's scored a winning 35 points, while Alameda had 41 points for second place, Piedmont tallied 47 points for third and El Cerrito notched fourth at 99 points.

"Our No. 2 girl was 10th and our No. 3 was 11th, which opened the door," said St. Mary's coach Denis Mohun. "Chavez and Matsumoto cramped up and fell to the back."

Coming to the rescue for the Lady Panthers were Chelsea Torgersen-Bell and Flo Larkin, who ran faster than usual to claim eighth and ninth place.

"Chelsea Torgersen-Bell and Flo Larkin stepped up big time," said Mohun. "As a team they all stepped up. Christina and Sayaka were hurting, but they gutted it through and that was the whole dif-

The first three runners in the race finished as expected with St. Mary's High sophomore Bridget Duffy taking honors on the 3-mile course with a meet best 18 minutes, 52 seconds.

Duffy has become the best runner in the league and she showed it, finishing with a full tank of gas and nobody on her heels.

As the Lady Panthers' top runner, Duffy ran second at the first league meet of the season and since then she has been untouchable. She won the next two league meets and captured the ACCAL title by 37 seconds.

"I did what I came out to do," said Duffy, who was used to being a front runner. "I was tempted to look over my shoulder but didn't. This course is nice because you can see people."

The only person Duffy had to worry about was Piedmont's Mary Phelps, a senior who only came out this year and surprised her at that first league meet.

Since then Phelps finished second to Duffy in two more regular-season meets and she did the same at the league championships, placing second overall in 19:31.

Alameda's Corinne Roberts was next in 19:45, then came another gap to fourth for St. Joseph's Caitlin Smith.

See ST. MARY'S, Page C2



## Albany Blue Dolphins celebrate standout season

This was not just another award ceremony for the Albany Blue Dolphins, it was a celebration.

When the team held its annual award ceremony at the Albany Recreational and Community Center on Sept. 27, Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson was present to acknowledge and congratulate the Dolphins on their success.

This past summer the Blue Dolphins made a huge leap from a mediocre recreational team to one of the county's finest competitive teams.

At the Scotsdale Invitational, the Blue Dolphins placed second against 24 teams, competing with the second fewest swimmers amongst all the teams. Several Blue Dolphins made names for themselves throughout the course of the swim season.

### Wang among finest

Tony Wang an eighth grader at Albany Middle School, established himself as one of the county's finest, placing second and third at the county meet, which includes teams from all of Contra Costa County. Tony would have placed among the top 40 nationally for his age division.

Another Albany Middle School seventh grader, Noelle Sun, also placed very high at the county meet, despite swimming against older swimmers in her age group. Noelle

broke several meet records, including one that stood for 10 years in the backstroke.

Other Dolphins from Albany who placed highly at the county meet include Carlos Martinez, Keri Pock, Tony Tran, Ying-Ying Yuan and Steve Band.

Blue Dolphins head coach Ahmad Filsoof believes that the success of the team is due to the swimmers' work ethic and discipline. He hopes to instill in his swimmers the basic lessons needed in swimming as well as life in order for an individual to work hard, be successful, and disciplined.

"I am fortunate to be around a lot of great swimmers who have devoted themselves to success, as well as many great parents," said Filsoof.

Filsoof hopes to build the success that has been established, and he feels that right now there is the right mix of coaches, athletes and parents to achieve that goal.

The Blue Dolphins are a long established (over 30 years) swim team that enjoyed its most successful season to date this year. They train in Albany and offer swim instruction to swimmers between the ages of 5 and 18.

The team has established two groups, an "A" group whose main focus is to train swimmers to qualify for national meets, including junior

and senior meets, and a "B" group that focuses on developing and encouraging swimmers.

The program's general goal is to familiarize swimmers with the strokes, learn proper stroke mechanics, develop and maintain a strong aerobic training base, basic racing techniques, as well as offering a fun environment for swimmers to develop friendships.

The Dolphins coaches Filsoof and assistant coach Tim Haney are both former UC Berkeley swimmers.

Filsoof hails from the world renowned Mission Viejo Nadadores. He trained under legendary coaches Bill Rose and Jack Simon, who between them produced over 60 Olympic athletes.

Filsoof qualified for the Olympic trials and before that established himself as one of the nation's finest age group swimmers, placing as high as second nationally in several events.

Haney swam for the Golden West Swim Club, where he excelled in the middle distance as well as individual medley events. He has broken and set several national age group records. Haney was coached by Bud McCalister, the coach of three-time Olympian Janet Evens.

## National futsal champs demonstrate their sport

League sponsors exhibition, Q&A for 2000 season

What do soccer players do when there is not soccer outside? They go indoors and play futsal.

Futsal is played five on a side on a basketball court, using a smaller denser ball.

It is the official indoor game of FIFA and the United States Soccer Federation.

To check out what this indoor version of soccer is like or how you can get involved in a league head to Piedmont Middle School on Nov. 22 at 7 p.m.

That's where the 1999 National Champion girls under-16 futsal team

will be playing in a demonstration game for those unfamiliar with the sport.

Coach Elise Eichenberg and her team will play a full game of two 25-minute halves. The team, which plays outdoors as the Bay Oaks under-16 team, is comprised of girls from Piedmont, Oakland, Alameda and Berkeley.

The demonstration is sponsored by the East Bay Futsal League. Now in its fourth year, the EBFL organizes a winter league for boys and girls in age groups from under 10 to under 19. Games are played in Alameda,

Oakland and Berkeley.

Question about the sport will be answered by the league's vice president and director of coaching, Lowell Ellis, who has coached at all soccer levels for more than 25 years.

"Futsal is a fast-paced game which develops foot skills and decision making which transfer to better play outdoors," said Ellis. "It's a great way to keep team together when fields are unavailable."

For more information about the demonstration or the 2000 winter league season call league president Liz Sterns at 547-2152.

standing setting job for the Cougars as she finished with 47 assists.

"When we upset Piedmont last night, that took a lot out of us," said Alameda coach Britta Fjellstrom, "though I would have liked to have competed more than we did."

Esparrago, Marshall, Jensen, Brazil and West all made the All-ACCAL team from Albany. Kara McCafferty was Alameda's only selection to the all-league team.

Alameda advanced to the final after beating Piedmont 6-15, 16-14, 15-10, 15-13 on Friday. Piedmont had only one loss — to Albany — during the regular league season and was expected to breeze to a rematch with Albany in the finals. But Alameda had different ideas, and even Piedmont coach Danielle Anderson was impressed.

"Alameda played a great match against us," Anderson said. "We struggled in terms of ball control, but that's not to take anything away from Alameda. Alameda's middle attack was very dominating."

Albany made the final by dismissing Holy Names 15-10, 15-3, 15-5 in Friday's other semifinal.

ETC: Both Alameda and Albany ad-

vanced to the North Coast Section playoffs. NCS seedings were decided Sunday.

Albany (35-5) has the No. 1 seed in Division IV. The Cougars had a bye Tuesday, then opened play Wednesday against Marin Catholic (19-12). Marin Catholic beat Holy Names (13-9) 15-4, 15-2, 15-3 in an NCS out-of-competition Tuesday evening, either Holy Names (13-8) or Marin Catholic (18-12).

Alameda, a Division II school, opened at home Tuesday with a 13-15, 15-9, 15-11, 10-15, 16-14 win over eighth-seeded Washington of the Mission Valley Athletic League. Alameda (21-9) faced top-seeded Carondelet (27-2) in quarterfinal play Wednesday.

In other ACCAL action Saturday, Piedmont captured third place in the consolation game by beating Holy Names 17-15, 15-6, 15-4.

Piedmont (26-4) earned the third seed in NCS Division IV and played at Willits High (17-7) on Wednesday.

Berkeley (18-11), of the East Bay Athletic League, lost 15-7, 15-10, 15-0 to Analy-Sebastopol in the first round of the Division I playoffs Tuesday.

son hooked up again on a 4-yard pass play, making it 31-30 and setting up the critical 2-point conversion attempt.

"I was thinking it's either do or die," George said.

Avedikan faked the counter and rolled to his right, having only to beat Dunbar, who made the tackle. "I had him by the finger," Dunbar said. "He dragged me for a couple yards and somehow I got him down."

Avedikan could only shake his head. "I thought I had it. It was a great call by the coach," Avedikan said, "I wish I could have that one over."

### George goes long

The first half was all George, who scored the first of his three first-half touchdowns on a 52-yard run. He also outraced the Dons' speedy secondary for scoring bursts of 70 and 78 yards to give St. Mary's a 25-6 lead. George finished the half with 250 yards on the ground.

"They're pretty quick," George said of the De Anza defensive backs. "That's why I had to turn it on today."

George added a 42-yard punt return for a touchdown in the second half.

Rodney Burton (14 carries, 143 yards) helped rally the Dons, getting them on the scoreboard with a 92-yard run in the first quarter that made it 9-6 St. Mary's. Avedikan closed out the first-half scoring with a 1-yard run making it 25-12.

## Berkeley's football season ends wide left

By Jonathan Okanes

SAN RAMON — Berkeley High kicker Jamie Bloomsburgh's 32-yard field goal attempt with five seconds remaining missed wide left, allowing California High to escape with a 14-12 East Bay Athletic League football win Friday night.

Thus ended the Yellowjackets season at 2-6-1 overall, 2-4-1 in the EBAL. The close game was a nice showing for Berkeley against a playoff-bound team.

Cal High (6-3-1, 5-1-1) moves on to the North Coast Section 3A playoffs at No. 3 seed Livermore (EBAL, 9-1) tonight.

The Grizzlies got the ball at the Berkeley 46 with 5:16 left and moved to the Yellowjackets' 25, where California quarterback Ryan Chiarelli was intercepted in the end zone by Berkeley's Greg Jefferson.

The Yellowjackets then marched 64 yards on 11 plays to the Grizzlies' 16, consuming 4 minutes, 5 seconds in the process.

Bloomsburgh kicked a low liner that just went wide of the left upright.

California took a 14-0 lead early in the third quarter and it appeared there was no way the game would come down to the final play. Berkeley's offense was virtually motionless until that point, gaining just 1 yard of offense and failing to notch a first down.

But the Yellowjackets came back behind option quarterback Rashad Edwards, who replaced starter Jason Washington in the second half.

Edwards made an excellent play midway through the third quarter, waiting until the very last second before faking a pitch back to running back Reggie Johnson, then turning upfield for an 81-yard touchdown

run. Bloomsburgh's point and it was 14-6. Berkeley cut the lead to 14-9 with 9:20 left in the game as TD pass from Jefferson.

The play came on eight and Jefferson's right corner of the Yellowjackets went to conversion, but Cal's bari and Reed Fisher wards for a loss to 14-12.

Neither team had moving the ball. The score was set up when mando intercepted the Berkeley 30 and scored four plays later TD run by Josh Ewing. The Grizzlies made a Chris Nordin blocked by Ryan Johnson covered it in the end

## Cross country

FROM PAGE C1

that day, including Greg Williams, James Ross, Denye Versher, and Bobby Howe. They will have another shot at Piedmont, although in a much larger venue, at the North Coast Section Meet of Champions this Saturday morning at Hayward High. Race time is 11:30.

St. Mary's is racing in Division 4 and beating the two favorites, Dublin High and Piedmont, will be tough.

"If (our runners) were all to PR we could definitely beat Piedmont," said St. Mary's coach Dan Keubler of his runner. "Dublin is the better team — they have more talent — but Piedmont always seems to run well at the end of the season."

St. Mary's has two runners who could make the state meet on their own. One of them is sophomore Rudy Vasquez, who placed third overall at the league championship meet, running the flat 3-mile course in 16 minutes, 27 seconds. The other guy is the senior Ross, who ran 16:53 to finish seventh.

"Rudy and James could finish top seven or eight at North Coast," said Keubler. "That should put them in the running for the state meet."

The other St. Mary's runners would have to step it up if the team hopes to go as a unit. Junior Nick Maniatis wasn't far behind his teammate Ross, placing eighth in 16:56. Junior Sean Garaghty (17:12) placed 11th overall as the Panthers' fourth scoring runner.

Then came a gap until the fifth man Williams (17:29) who placed 18th. Versher (18:04, 22nd) and Howe (20:31, 37th) were not exactly healthy and their finish showed it.

## St. Mary's

FROM PAGE C1

Piedmont's Allison Jolda (20:24) finished seventh behind Alameda's Sarah Walker (20:17) and Sarah Orzell (20:23), who beat her at the wire. At that point Piedmont and St. Mary's were tied for second place behind Alameda with two runners in each.

But a blanket of Lady Panthers came next. Torgersen-Bell (20:45), Larkin (20:46), Chavez (21:18) and Matsumoto (21:19) placed 8-9-10-11 over-

all and the race was over.

Alameda's Lara Burenin (21:29) was next in 12th place and then Piedmont runners made their own blanket finish.

Christina Gunther-Murphy (21:31), Stephanie Pertulla (21:54), Lauren Barbieri (21:59), Jordan Landes-Brennan (22:00) and Erica Simpson (22:03) took the next five places (13th through 17th) for the Highlanders.

Even that much space between the first four Alameda runners and the fifth — including El Cerrito sophomore Julietta Strauss (22:16, 18th) — wasn't enough to give Piedmont second place. Alameda's Jennifer Bleicher, the fifth

of five runners for the Panthers, placed 19th.

### Gauchos steps

El Cerrito laid some future with a very young great experience. The music led by the Gauchos, followed by soprano Davenport (23:53), freshman Morrison (24:37), and Bobbie Habdas (25:19, 25:31) and Stephanie. Add some summer runs more years and this some promise.

## Gauchos

FROM PAGE C1

record speak for itself," he said immediately after Friday's game. "They'll have to consider us as the top seed since we're the only undefeated team in that division. How can they put us anywhere else?"

In fact, the NCS seeding committee couldn't put the Gauchos anywhere else. El Cerrito will host ACCAL foe St. Mary's (6-4 overall) in a first-round game tonight at 7:30. The last time the two teams played the stands were packed with fans from both schools. Expect the same tonight.

El Cerrito won that game 34-9 in its last major hurdle toward a perfect league season.

As they have done throughout the season, look for the Gauchos to use a balanced attack. Against Richmond, El Cerrito played true to form and did just that.

David Rose led the ground game with 137 yards on 12 carries with one touchdown, and running mate Okoro Onyike chipped in with 51 yards on 10 carries and two touchdowns.

Quarterback Joe McBride completed 7 of 11 passes for 202 yards and three TD passes to his favorite target, senior receiver Jason Washington.

The scoring began when Onyike rambled in from 17 yards out with

6:41 left in the first half. He threw to Washington for a conversion and an 8-0 lead.

Richmond quickly when senior Lionel Perez free on a 28-yard pass to senior quarterback Chris Morrison (24:37), and Bobbie Habdas (25:19, 25:31) and Stephanie. Add some summer runs more years and this some promise.

El Cerrito then scored. Sward points in the first half. A 14-yard TD run started the scoring spree. Over the Gauchos' 12-0 win over Dixon completed 12 of 17 for 271 yards and one touchdown. Richmond, Arroyo, and ing gave him 924 on the

## Albany

FROM PAGE C1

game. Alameda didn't score until Allison Bremner scored an ace with her jump-serve to cut the Cougars' lead to 7-1.

Later in the game, Bremner served another ace for the Hornets' final point. The score was 13-4 then. A pair of Alameda errors soon gave Albany the game.

Though Alameda eventually lost the match in three straight games, the second and third were both moral victories for the Hornets. Alameda led by as many as two points twice in the second game and had a one-point lead on three occasions in the third. But the Hornets were playing Albany, the class of the ACCAL and one of the best in the Bay Area.

Albany had little trouble cleaning up on the Hornets. Laura Jensen finished with 14 kills for the Cougars. Lindsey Marshall added 12, Alison West seven, and Shannon Brazil and Stacey Phelps five each.

Theresa Esparrago did an out-

## Panthers

FROM PAGE C1

El Cerrito beat St. Mary's 34-9 on Oct. 15 at El Cerrito in front of a huge crowd. Expect nothing less tonight.

Shaughnessy gave credit to De Anza and the Dons' great season. He knew his team had beaten a quality program, that deserved to be ranked high. "Let's be fair to De Anza. They beat some good teams along the way, like Casa Grande from the north."

Credit must be given to the Panthers, who knew with a win they would reach the playoffs, but with a loss it was most likely they would be handing in their uniforms on Monday.

### Down to the wire

The Panthers' entire season went down to the wire. De Anza had pulled within a point and was going for the 2-point conversion for the win.

Dons quarterback Antranik Avedikan had one player to beat, but Panther cornerback Chris Dunbar made the stop at the 7-yard line to preserve the victory.

St. Mary's players stormed the field to celebrate their 31-30 win and an automatic 2A North Coast Section playoff berth.

"How do you like them onions?" said Shaughnessy said of the season-

ending matchup to decide second place in the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League.

The teams ended the regular season with identical 6-2 records in ACCAL play, but St. Mary's (6-4 overall) got the automatic berth in the North Coast Section 2A East Bay playoffs because of its one-point win.

St. Mary's running back Trestin George's was the catalyst for the victory. He had 312 all-purpose yards and four touchdowns.

George has filled in nicely for the absent Eddie Smith, who is still out with a shoulder injury. In some ways, the injury to Smith made St. Mary's a stronger team, because the Panthers were forced to fill in his shoes.

"We're obviously a different team without Eddie Smith," said Shaughnessy. "We lost him after six games and since then we're 3-1. Everyone had to step up, not just one sophomore."

With 4:16 left Avedikan, who ran in two scores and threw for two others, began to engineer a drive from his own 18-yard line. De Anza marched upfield with Avedikan scrambling for yardage on some plays and passing on others.

George, who also plays safety on defense, watched as Johnny Johnson outjumped him to pluck a 33-yard pass from Avedikan with 40 seconds remaining to give the Dons first and goal on the 4-yard line.

Two plays later Avedikan and John-

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# Arts

## Portillo cuts to the chase in her films

By Andrew Gilbert

Among the myriad gifted independent filmmakers in the Bay Area, there's no one like Lourdes Portillo.

The Academy Award-nominated and Emmy-winning documentarian has created a body of work that defies easy categorization, moving between a conventional documentary approach and audaciously stylized works. Over the course of two decades, she has influenced a generation of Latino filmmakers while winning multiple awards for documentaries that balance humor, technical finesse and a relentless search for justice.

A retrospective of her films played Friday, Nov. 12, at the Fine Arts Cinema in Berkeley presented the work of a politically engaged artist with a powerful humanistic vision. Always avoiding polemics, Portillo's films are about the process of seeking truth. Portillo was at the screening.

"Truth is so subjective, justice is so elusive," Portillo said during an interview in the office of her San Francisco production company, Xochitl Films. "My films are not about gaining justice, they're about the search, inviting people to come on the search."

### 'Respect for ambiguity'

"Lourdes has this kind of self-questioning and wonderfully healthy self-doubt that more filmmakers could use," said filmmaker Jon Else, who runs the UC-Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism's documentary video program. "There's a respect for ambiguity. Most documentary filmmakers are convinced



**MEXICAN FILMMAKER** Lourdes Portillo uses both standard and unconventional approaches when she makes documentaries. "I've tried to work both ways," she says.

that they know the truth. She revels in the mystery of the world."

The Fine Arts Cinema program included her best-known work, "Las Madres: Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo," for which she and Argentine-born Susana Muñoz were nominated for an Academy Award in 1986. The hour-long documentary helped bring international attention to the protest movement of Argentine mothers

seeking information about family members who "disappeared" during the "Dirty War" of the late '70s and early '80s.

"Las Madres" unfolds in standard documentary style, but Portillo and Muñoz allow viewers to feel the ache of the unresolved kidnappings. The film's continuing relevance was highlighted last week with Spanish judge Baltasar Garçon's indictment of Ar-

gentina's former President Leopoldo Galtieri and 97 military officers who presided over the seven-year Dirty War, when as many as 30,000 people were killed or disappeared for their suspected leftist ties.

Another Portillo-Muñoz film which screened in Berkeley last Friday was "La Ofrenda: The Days of

See PORTILLO, Page C4

## HOT SHEET!

■ Lisa & Lynn, female guitarists who play Jewish folk tunes, will perform at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 5, at Temple Sinai, 28th and Webster streets, Oakland. Tickets \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and \$5 children under 12. Call 510-451-3263.

■ The Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra presents a classical concert at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4, at St. Joseph the Worker Church, 1640 Addison St., Berkeley. Admission is free. Call 510-525-5393.

## EVENTS



**DR. DOOLITTLE** (pictured) will visit Children's Fairland during the Animal's Thanksgiving Weekend celebration on Friday, Nov. 26, and Saturday, Nov. 27. Dr. Doolittle will perform his trademark puppet show for the youngsters.

### Gaia Bookstore

Ralph Metzner, Friday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. The author will discuss his book, "Green Psychology: Transforming Our Relationship to the Earth and Ayahuasca."

China Galland, Jean Bolen, Julia Butterfly, Copper Wimmer, Friday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m. "Still Standing: A Celebration of Trees." At St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave.

Donald Altman, Monday, Nov. 22, 7:30 p.m. The author will discuss his book "Art of the Inner Meal: Eating As a Spiritual Path."

Workshops — "The Shortest Distance Between You and a Published Book," Saturday, Nov. 20, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Susan Page, a best-selling author and consultant to writers, will talk about the best ways to get published and to market a book. Coffee and bagels included in fee. \$50.

Drumming workshop, Sunday, Nov. 21, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. In "Rhythm: The Heart of the Circle," Holly Blue Hawkins shows how drumming is a vehicle for personal fulfillment, group unification, and community and team building. For both beginners and experienced drummers. \$20. \$3: free if author's book is purchased. 1400 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Call 510-848-GAIA or 510-548-4172.

### Marcus Bookstore

Asha Bhande, Saturday, Nov. 20, 5 p.m. The author will discuss her new book "The Prisoner's Wife." Free. 3900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland. Call 510-552-2344.

### Second annual Zoolights at Oakland Zoo

Runs Nov. 26-Jan. 2. ZooLights features 100 glowing creations built specially for the Oakland Zoo. From a huge neon volcano erupting with light to colorful dinosaurs, lions and tigers and brightly colored birds, the various scenes may be viewed from the ZooLights Trail or from the new Holiday Train. In addition there is a children's carnival area and the "Holiday Village," at the Children's Zoo which has been transformed with gingerbread-men, candy canes, toy soldiers, gum-drop trees and many other goodies all ablaze with holiday colors. Proceeds from ZooLights benefit youth education and animal preservation at the Oakland Zoo.

Admission: \$5 general; \$3 children age 2-14; free children under age 2; one train ride ticket with each ticket. Daily, 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m. (weather permitting). Knowland Park, 9777 Golf Links Road exit off Interstate 580, Oakland. Call 510-632-9525 or www.oaklandzoo.org

### Historic house museums Christmas activities

The Camron-Stanford House—Dec. 8 through Dec. 29. This stately, 1876 Italianate-style home is the last

See EVENTS, Page C4

## Berkeley Potters Studio holds annual sale

Potters' Studio, a local gallery store, is announcing a special holiday sale to be held the four weekends before Christmas.

Featuring the work of 22 artists, the sale will include an array of teapots, masks, bowls, cups, sculptures and more.

The sale runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 27-28, Dec. 4-5, Dec. 12-13, and Dec. 19-20. The Potters' Studio is located at 637 Cedar St., Berkeley.

The 27-year old gallery is a center for established and emerging ceramic artist from around the world.

Reiko Miyagi, whose work is based on traditional Japanese styles, is one of the many artists highlighted in the holiday sale.

"My hope is that my work will be used with nice food to create a daily ritual of eating, or with elements of decor to make harmonious and beautiful surroundings," Miyagi said. "I believe that such rituals and surroundings are conducive to a good spirit."

According to administration, it is the only community-service oriented artist's cooperative in Berkeley. In addition to the gallery, it offers studio space, classes for children and adults, and five kilns for community use.

For information about the sale, call 510-528-3286.



**SOME OF** the pieces that will be featured in the Potter's Studio holiday sale. The art gallery will host the sale the last four weekends before Christmas.

## 'Dogma' low on karma meter

Film's irreverence is supposed to be a strong point, but most of the dialogue is silly and campy

By Karen Hershenson

Kevin Smith is trying to make a profound statement about religion in his irreverent satire "Dogma," but the man is speaking in tongues.

Crammed with gun-wielding angels and Rollerblading demons, it is more the ramblings of a confused Catholic than anything coherent or insightful. Smith — and even his detractors — may think there's something deep here, but he's merely mocking an institution: forever the little boy snickering from the back of the church.

Still, there are amusing moments, as Smith, working from his "Clerks"-era screenplay, wrestles with the really big questions. Despite its wordiness and often juvenile musings, this is one wacky opus, with a string of outrageous characters and holy messengers as fallible as you and me.

The film has been a controversy magnet, with the New York-based Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights firing salvos since last

### REVIEW

■ **WHAT:** "Dogma"

■ **STARRING:** Matt Damon, Ben Affleck, Linda Fiorentino, Chris Rock

■ **RATING:** R (strong language, violence, crude humor and some drug content)

■ **RUNNING TIME:** 2 hours, 5 minutes

■ **WHERE:** Piedmont Theatre, UA Emerybay 10

■ **GRADE:** B-

spring. The 29-year-old Smith, whose other movies include "Mallrats" and "Chasing Amy," has been deluged with hate mail that compares him to both Hitler and the KKK.

Let them squawk. Like other flack-catching flicks with religious themes — "Priest," "The Last Temptation of

See DOGMA, Page C4



**CHRIS ROCK**, Kevin Smith, Jason Mewes and Linda Fiorentino play fast and loose with religion in the controversial "Dogma."





## World music and dance

**MARIACHI LOS CAMPEROS DE NATI CANO** (pictured) and Ballet Folklórico Ollin will perform "Fiesta Navidad," a Mexican Christmas celebration of song and dance, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 28, at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley. Tickets are \$14, \$20 and \$28. Call 510-642-9988.

ROBERT BLAKEMAN

## Dogma

FROM PAGE C3

Christ" and Monty Python's "The Life of Brian" — the voice of "Dogma" deserves to be heard. Besides, strip away the blasphemous trappings and this is really a movie about regaining one's faith.

It's understandable that the pious would be peeved, since the film pokes fun at everything sacred. People snooze in church, and a rah-rah priest (George Carlin) unveils a new "Buddy Christ," with a goofy grin and plaster thumbs-up, to replace the traditional crucifix.

Matt Damon and Ben Affleck are fallen angels, desperate after a near-eternity of banishment in Wisconsin. Chris Rock is a trash-talking 13th apostle named Rufus, who claims he was left out of the Bible for political reasons. Smith and Jason Mewes reprise their roles as Silent Bob and Jay, in this case two puerile prophets, with Salma Hayek as a booty-shak-

ing muse.

The angels, Loki and Bartleby, have discovered a loophole in church doctrine that will allow them to re-enter the pearly gates — by descending upon a church in New Jersey. But doing so would wreak havoc on humankind, so God (through her spokesman Alan Rickman) sends a distant relative of Christ's on a pilgrimage to stop them.

This unlikely savior is a world-weary abortion-clinic worker named Bethany (Linda Fiorentino), who's having her own crisis of faith. She and a co-worker (Janeane Garofalo), conclude that the young are wowed by all the church's pomp; but as you mature, your glass is bigger and needs more sustenance to be filled.

Smith reportedly wanted someone younger for the role of Bethany, but he was wise to go with Fiorentino. Her maturity balances the sex-obsessed ramblings of the prophet dudes, and provides a grounded counterpoint to the insane, even inane goings-on. Case in point: the overflowing toilet

that morphs into a poop demon.

Fiorentino's performance is the most credible, with Damon and Affleck camping it up as if starring in a school play. Their characters like to toy with humans' emotions, often with a bloody outcome. Rock, whose character is unceremoniously dumped from the sky, spews nonstop revisionist doctrine, while the prophets conspire to get into Bethany's pants. Smith is amazingly emotive as the taciturn Silent Bob, a familiar character from his movies.

There's plenty of skewed theology in this comedy, to the point that it becomes hard for a non-Catholic to keep up. Besides the 13th apostle, we learn that God is a Skeeball-loving hippie woman (Alanis Morissette) whose voice is so overpowering she requires a mouthpiece.

As crazy as it all is, it's scary to think there are those who can't handle even the idea of a movie like "Dogma." As they say in the disclaimer, even God has a sense of humor. Just look at the platypus.

## Mann

FROM PAGE C3

but two left: Oaklander **Jon Carroll**, and my funny colleague, **TV guy John Carman**. ... A question for fellow AOL subscribers: Is it my imagination, or is almost impossible to log on to that online service now without seeing a picture of **Austin Powers** or the **Jennifer Love Hewitt**? ... **Tom Benner**, the former morning man at KNEW back in its Jack London Square days, is traffic guy Officer Vic on KSFO's morning show with **Lee Rodgers**. And Benner, I hear, is a (gasp) liberal — working at a liberal-bashing conservative station. Speaking of the now-defunct KNEW and traffic reporting, the guy Benner replaced, KNEW's longtime morning macho man in Oakland, **Jon Wailin**, can now be heard on KGO in the afternoons also doing traffic reporting, for **Shadow Traffic**. ... Don't want to fall into the I-told-you-so trap, but I

did mention here last fall that 49ers factotum **Bill Walsh's** signing of thug/just-departed running back **Lawrence Phillips** was a sure sign of desperation by a failing franchise. You can't help but get some satisfaction out of the Niners' demise this year if you're a Raider fan. (Important disclaimer: This does NOT imply being an Al Davis fan) ... Just when you think loathsome **Vince McMahon** and his **WWF** playmates couldn't sink any lower, a reader e-mails me that one charming recent plotline involved the **WWF** exec being called from the ring "because his daughter was being gang-raped backstage by a bunch of wrestlers." The reader adds, "McMahon uses his real-life daughter Stephanie in these pleasant scenarios. How any father could do that, I do not know." Nor do I. It's come to this: Simulated gang rapes as "entertainment." Ask the unctuous McMahon about any of these slimy scenarios, and the answer is always the same: "Hey, it's only entertainment." The man

is beyond disgraceful.

**Word Play:** On a lighter note, here are a few excerpts from the Washington Post's Style Invitational. Readers were asked to take a word, add, subtract, or change one letter, and supply a new definition. Recent winners include:

**Reintarnation:** Coming back to life as a hillbilly.

**Giraffiti:** Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.

**Sarcasm:** The gulf between the sarcastic wit and the guy who doesn't get it.

**Innoculate:** Taking coffee intravenously when you're running late.

**Hipatitis:** Terminal coolness.

**Dopeler effect:** The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

**Intaxification:** Euphoria at getting a tax refund — which lasts only until you realize it was your money to begin with.

(Questions? Comments? E-mail Bill at [Newsman@aol.com](mailto:Newsman@aol.com)).

## Artisans Open Studios tour starts next week

One hundred Berkeley artisans will participate in the Ninth annual Berkeley Artisans Holiday Open Studios Tours. The event is geared toward supporting and promoting Berkeley artists.

"People come because it's something different to do," Susan Brooks, program coordinator, said. "It's a lot of fun, and visiting an actual art studio gives people a glimpse into a world that they don't usually see."

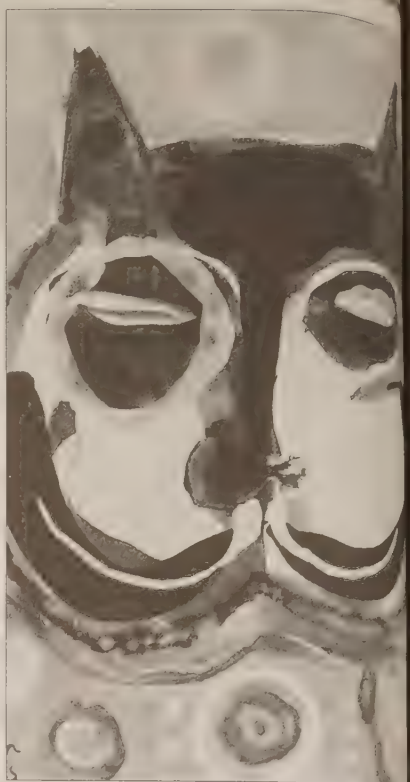
The self-guided tours are free. They will be held 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, Nov. 27-28, Dec. 4-5, Dec. 11-12 and Dec. 18-19.

Artists will show functional and decorative ceramics, ornaments, menorahs, lamps, blown glass, sculptures, furniture and more.

All work is handcrafted. Coordinators say the tour presents a unique opportunity to buy limited pieces directly from the artists.

Maps are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to (or visiting): Berkeley Artisans Map, 1250 Addison St. #214, Berkeley, Ca 94702.

For more information, call 510-845-2612.



"GOUACHE PAINTING" was created by Susan Brooks, one of the hundred artists featured in the Ninth annual Berkeley Artisans Open Studio Tours.

## Portillo

FROM PAGE C3

the Dead," an impressionistic exploration of the Mexican celebration of the dead. Tracing the Indian roots of the festival through its importance to the Chicano community today, the 50-minute film is a visual feast that captures the tender and sometimes humorous attitudes toward death in Mexican culture.

The Fine Arts program also included what is probably Portillo's most celebrated film, "The Devil Never Sleeps." Shot in Mexico, the film is an investigation into the death of her uncle. Stylized and constructed like a Hollywood thriller, with each shot as deliberate as any in a Hitchcock movie, the film stretches the no-

tion of documentary, but remains rooted in her actual search for answers into Tio Oscar's puzzling demise.

### Part of a movement

Born in the north Mexican state of Chihuahua, Portillo moved with her family to Los Angeles in 1959 when she was a young teen. She started working in film while still living in Los Angeles, but it was when she relocated to San Francisco that she immersed herself in the incipient Bay Area movement of radical filmmakers as part of the Marxist film collective Cinemanifesto. Dedicated to movie-making as an art as well as a political tool, Portillo went to film school in the mid-'70s to hone her command of the craft.

"From the get-go, I was trying to

break away from the real documentary approach, to believe in the very concept as well," she said. "I was both ways."

Despite her multiple awards and revered status in the downtown community, Portillo struggles to find funds for each new project. In the advent of the relatively new mini-digital video format, she has had many opportunities to advance her filmmaking through sponsorships, traveling around the world to show her films, and teaching in Berkeley.

"We know this isn't going to be a living for us," Portillo says, "but we have to include the film in our lives. We have to share our office. We have to have to realize it's going to be difficult."

# Holiday Boutique

**Second Annual Elks Boutique**  
 Alameda Elks Lodge  
 2255 Santa Clara Avenue  
 Big White Building next to City Hall  
 Arts & Crafts  
 Homemade and/or Handcrafted Items  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
 Saturday, November 27th • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 Parking and Handicap Access available in rear of building.

Arts & Crafts are a big part of the Holiday season. Below is a small list of some of the activities happening around the Bay Area. Check the web for many more great ideas at [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org).

Corn Husk Dolls • Basket Weaving • Fall Craft: Whipped Candles • Casting Away! Winter Bird Feeder • Paper making • Soap making • Recycled Gifts Workshop  
 Last Minute Gifts With Wheat

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## Events

FROM PAGE C3

Victorian house on Lake Merritt's shore.

Its five period rooms will be decorated for Christmas, with the highlight being its 12-foot-tall Christmas tree festooned with garlands, hand-made cornucopias, antique ornaments, baskets of nuts and American flags.

At 14th Street and Lakeside Drive, Oakland, Wednesday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Tickets: \$4 general; \$2 seniors; \$1 juniors age 12-18; free children under age 12. Call 510-444-1876.

The Cohen Bray House Christmas Tea and Tour—Jan. 2, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Built for A.A. Cohen in 1884, the elaborate farmhouse contains original family furnishings and will be decorated for the holidays with Christmas trees, garlands and ornaments including a 12-foot-tall tree.

Tea sittings are on the hour between 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Reservations required.

At Victorian Preservation Center of Oakland, 1440 29th St., Oakland. Admission: \$20 general; \$15 seniors and youths. Call 510-843-2906.

Dunsmuir House—Dec. 3-Dec. 19. This impressive 37-room mansion with its Tiffany-style dome will be decorated with elegant ornaments, holiday trees, garlands and wreaths.

The estate offers house tours, holiday carriage rides, stiltwalkers, puppet shows, caroling and food. At 2960 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland. Tick-

ets: \$10 general; \$9 seniors; \$6 juniors age 6 to 13; free children under age 6. Call 925-275-9490 or [www.dunsmuir.com](http://www.dunsmuir.com)

The Pardee House—Nov. 28-Dec. 31. The historic Pardee Mansion, a three-story Italianate villa built in 1868, was home to California Gov. Pardee and three generations of the Pardee family who were instrumental in the civic and cultural development of California and Oakland.

The home includes the house, grounds, water tower and barn and will be decorated with 1890s holiday decorations. At 672 11th St., Oakland, Friday and Saturday, noon. Admission: Tickets: \$5 general; free children under age 12. Call 510-444-2187.

Special Events—Annual Holiday Reception and House Tour, Nov. 28, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Opening of the house for the holidays. Includes refreshments, traditions from 100 years ago and a visit by Santa Claus. Reservations required. Tickets: \$10 general; \$5 children under age 12.

Candlelight Tour, Dec. 21 and Dec. 22, 6:30-8 p.m. Tour the house by candlelight and see it as the occupants did. Seasonal refreshments served in the Carriage House. Reservations required. Tickets: \$8 general; \$4 children.

### Judah L. Magnes Museum

"Chagall: Master Prints and Posters, Selections from the Magnes Museum Collection," Nov. 21-March 26. An exhibit of 26 master lithographs and etchings plus strikingly designed posters. Included are a selection from the artist's series of 105

hand-colored etchings illustrating the Bible and five color-lithograph maquettes for the famous Jerusalem window. Accompanying the exhibition is "Exploring Chagall and His Use of the Elements of Art," a child-friendly Interactive Educational Room with five work-stations and a central activities space.

"Collecting for the Future: Recent Acquisitions to the Magnes Museum Collection," Nov. 21 through March 26. An exhibit of highlights from recent acquisitions by the museum, ranging from a San Francisco ex-supervisor's hat to paintings by Victor Vasarely and Yaacov Agam, prints by Israeli artist Anna Ticho, to a Haggadah and a Megillah illustrated by Nahum Gutman. Sinage and exhibition arrangement will help visitors learn how curators and librarians select acquisitions.

Screenings—The Sixth International Jewish Video Competition, through Dec. 30. The 28 winning video tapes from the competition will be given continuous screenings. Videos include those from Australia, Brazil, Canada and the United States.

Free admission. Hours: Sunday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. Call 510-549-6950.

### Womyn of Color Arts and Crafts Fair

Nov. 27, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The fair features paintings, clay sculpture, textiles, jewelry, quilts, decorative furniture and wearable art by women of color artists and artisans. Free admission. La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Call 510-845-0422.



*Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis.*

**The van der Zanden Studio**, 1025 Carleton, No. 9, offers sculpture classes. All levels. Call 843-9445 for additional information

**Turning Point** at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, presents Scribble Time on Tuesdays, by appointment Scribble Time, a class taught by Anne Levine, Ph.D., has helped people to understand themselves better and to find their focus. Call 848-6370 for additional information.

**A CopWatch** class takes place every Monday night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at 2022 Blake Street near Shattuck. Know your rights. The classes are free. Call 548-0425 for additional information.

**Berkeley Community Media (BCM),** Channel 25, offers affordable classes in video production and editing to Berkeley residents. Free orientations designed to introduce BCM to the public are held on Thursdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 2239 Martin Luther King, Jr Way. For more information call 848-2288 and ask for Patrick, John or Sage.

**Disaster Preparedness Classes** offered by Berkeley's Office of Emergency Services are scheduled as follows: Nov. 20, 9-12 a.m. Fire Suppression; Dec. 4, 9 to 12 a.m. Light Search and Rescue; and Dec. 11 9-12 Disaster First Aid. All classes are held at the 997 Cedar Street. The classes are open to anyone, 18 or older, who live or work in Berkeley. To register, or for more information, call Dory Ehnllich at 644-8736, ext. 229.

**The El Cerrito Community Center,** 7007 Moeser Lane offers a series of classes On Basic Crochet for beginners and intermediate, Tuesdays and Thursdays, through Nov. 25, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

**The El Cerrito Community Center,** 7067 Moeser Lane, offers Line Dancing classes for beginners and intermediates continuing through, Nov. 23 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Residents \$30 and non residents \$37.

**The YWCA** offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center, 2600 Bancroft Way. The orientations outline the resources available to the public including a variety of workshops held Tuesday, at 1:30 p.m. For additional information call 848-6370.

**Ashkenaz**, 1317 San Pablo Ave., offers many dance classes ranging from Afro-Cuban to Kalanjali Dances of India, to West Coast Swing to Lindy Hop and East Coast Swing. The Ashkenaz is a nonprofit music and dance community center. Call 625-5054 for additional information.

**The Ecology Center**, 2530 San Pablo Ave., offers a hands-on workshop for making a simple solar cooker using only sunlight as fuel. Learn basic solar principles and hear how solar cooker benefits people around the world. Cost is \$10 for non members; \$7.50 for members plus \$10 for materials. Call 548-2220 for more information and to sign up.

**Berkeley Community Media** presents classes covering camera techniques, movement, composition of shots, tempo, continuity, editing, sound influence. Screenings will include works of Godard, Wong Kar Wai, Spike Lee, and others. This class is for anyone interested in film, video and the power of the media. Call 848-2288, ext 810 for additional information.

**Life Stories/Collage** and Ceramics classes forming at St. John's Senior Center, 2727 College Ave., Tuesday mornings 9 a.m. to noon. All are welcome. Free. Sponsored by Berkeley Adult School. Teachers are Diana Bohn and Judith Carroll. Call 845-6830 for additional information.

**Contemporary Women's Issues**  
class is forming at the North Berkeley  
Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. Free  
class offered by the Berkeley Adult  
School, taught by Judith Carroll, MFCC  
Friday mornings 10 a.m. to noon. Open  
to all women 55 or older. Call 644-6107  
for additional information.

**Dance and Fitness** Classes open to all in flamenco, Afro-Brazilian, belly-dance, salsa, swing, ballroom, tap, theatre dance, yoga, chi gung, tai chi, aikido, pilates-based body conditioning and more at the YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drop in fees: \$8-10. Information: 848-6370

**et's Swing and Jitterbug:** 7 p.m. beginning classes, 8 p.m. intermediate; four-week dance classes beginning the first Tuesday of the month; Finnish Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut, Berkeley; Diana Castillo, 549-3591; \$40 for four classes

**he Albany** Cub Scouts Pancake Breakfast takes place on Sunday, Nov 21, 7-11 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Bldg. The annual events is the only

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public fundraising activity of the Albany Cub Scouts. Support the Cub Scouts **Hall of Health**, 2230 Shattuck Ave., health exhibit museum, presents free puppet shows: "Programs on Cultural and Medical Differences," on Saturday, Nov. 20, 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The program is for children of all ages and their parents. The Hall of Health is a hands-on community health-education museum and science center sponsored by Children's Hospital Oakland and Alta Bates Medical Center. Admission is free. For more information call, 549-1564

**Ventriloquist Steve Chaney** and his puppet partner **Cornelius Crowe** perform on Sunday Nov. 21, from 11 a.m. to noon at the Buddy Club Children's Show at the Albany Community Center Theater, 1249 Marin Ave., Albany. Also performing is singer **Lisa Atkinson**. Tickets: \$7. Children under 2 free. For tickets, birthday party reservations, and show information call the Buddy Club at 652-SNOW.

**The winners** of the Recycled Art Contest for Children in Berkeley will be honored at the city council meeting on Nov. 23, 7 p.m., at the "Old City Hall" 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. The children's artwork will be on display. All are invited. Call 644-8891 for additional information.

**Kids and** their adult companions can explore the University of California Botanical Garden with Docent Lois Paul the last Sunday of every month at 1 p.m. You will visit a section of the Garden that represents a different continent or foreign country, find out what's special about the plants that grow there, and then draw what you see. Call 643-2755 to reserve your space.

**Theater Rats,**" Julia Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 883-7023 for additional information.

**Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT)** support group meets Saturdays bimonthly at West Berkeley Library, 1125 University Ave. from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. CMT is a neuropathic disorder. Call 524-3506 for additional information

**YWCA Health** and Community Education; drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370; \$8 - \$10

**Comic Relief**, 2138 University Ave., presents J.H. Williams and Mick Gray, artists of the graphic novel "Son of Superman" and the comic "Promethea" on Nov. 20, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. "Promethea," published by America's Best Comics and written by award-winning creator Alan Moore, deals with the power of the imagination. "Son of Superman" is the first-ever Superman graphic novel published as a hardback. Call 842-5002 for additional information.

**"Still Standing,"** A Celebration of the Power of Trees," a benefit for the Scared Grove Women's Forest Sanctuary takes place Friday, Nov. 19, from 7-10 p.m. at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave. Tickets are \$15-25 and are available at local independent bookstores. For more information call 272-9540

**Congregation Beth El**, 2301 Vine St., presents a Hanukkah Bazaar featuring seasonal gifts, menorahs, latkes, other traditional food, toys and games and other holiday items on Sunday, Nov. 21, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free. School groups are welcome. Call 848-3988 for additional information.

**North Berkeley Senior Center**, 1901 Hearst St., offers a Calistoga and Napa Art Museum trip on Nov. 18, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$19. Call Maggie or Suzanne at 644-6107 for additional information.

**Overeaters Anonymous** meet Fridays at 1:30 PM at the Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley, 941 The Alameda between Solano and Marin Avenues, in Room 2—the childcare room—parents may bring their children. This organization is for individuals who eat compulsively. For further informa-

**Toastmasters**, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice- Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for additional

Disc

**Civil Rights** activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington. P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA., 94701.

**"Work Buddies";** volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Mini-

imum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nannette Lipton, 644-8292

**Psychic Healing** clinic; 7 to 9 p.m.  
Mondays; free clinic at the Academy for  
Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura  
cleansing, stress relief; 1-800-642-9355  
**SMART project;** the Alcohol Research

Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive

**The Edible** Schoolyard, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volun-

See CALENDAR, Page C8

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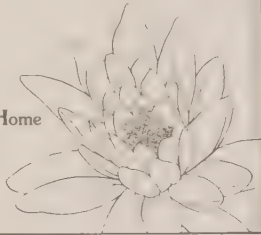
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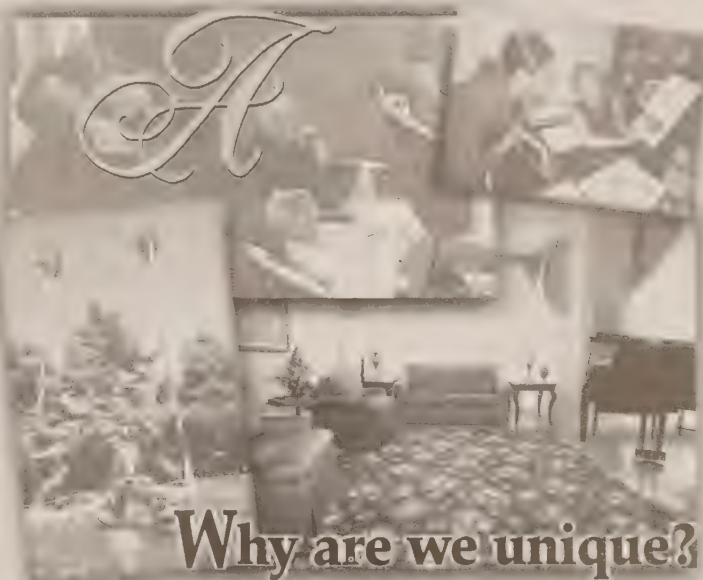
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## A TIME AND SEASON FOR EVERYTHING

One of the most difficult decisions to keep is the fact that your parents can no longer function alone at home. Then, it becomes the adult-child who is charged with the responsibility of finding a more suitable living arrangement. Unfortunately, guilt and an ego مانع from entering the "picture" as well as a lack of understanding of the aging process. Since the family is experiencing this for the first time, they may not have a competent person to give the needed advice. What is so frustrating is that the individuals who need placement still believe that they can manage their own lives. It takes a day care and thus refuse to leave their homes.

Unfortunately, it does take a crisis situation to convince them that a change is necessary, such as, a fall, a stroke or a broken hip.

At that point, the adult-child is scrambling. Time is spent trying to establish contacts with agencies, exploring facilities and locations; now we have families who are worn down emotionally. The adult child has so much to learn. Just understanding medical and legal terminology is not a simple task. It is unrealistic to believe that all you need to know can be simplified. It will touch on a few areas that I hope may help.

Parents who are still able to walk, without a cane, or walker, take their own medications, bathe and are alert as to time, place and person; they would do well in a retirement/independent facility. If they will not have concerns about cooking, house cleaning; instead, their time would be spent having adult stimulation with their peers and complete security.

Most Retirement/Independent facilities have Assisted Living when care is necessary, if medications are forgotten and daily grooming becomes a chore, Assisted Living is a wonderful service. At The Altheim, we offer the

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care such as tube feeding, and a one to one assistance with the patient needs.

Acute Hospitals. Summit Medical Center they provide immediate treatment for life threatening care or any emergency situation.

My practical advice would be not to wait until you need to admit someone. Instead, explore all of your options, be aware of your financial needs, appoint a trusted family member to have Power of

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John and one of his Cal students measuring a specimen in 1962.



Joanna L. Casse and her friend Sabrina







## Calendar

PAGE C8

now presents a group of exhibitors displaying their original, hand-crafted work including: tapestries, paintings, clay sculpture, jewelry, quilts, decorative items, furniture and wearable art. Call 424-0422 for additional information.

An exhibition of exquisite Indian miniature paintings dating from the fifteenth to early twentieth centuries, presented by UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, continues through Nov. 28. Guided tours of the exhibition are offered by UC Berkeley graduate students on Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. and Fridays at 3 p.m. For further information, call 424-0808.

The Berkeley Potters Guild holds its annual winter holiday sale during the weekends of Nov. 27-28 and Dec. 4-5. During the entire week of Dec. 1-11, the guild members will display their work throughout their complex of open studios. The Guild is located at 171 Jones St. at 4th St., just off the BART exit of 180. Call 524-7031 or visit the web site at [www.berkeleypotters.com](http://www.berkeleypotters.com).

Alta Bates Medical Center presents a "Senior Association at the Community Center" at 2450 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. The center is in the main corridor to the right of the information desk and main entrance. Call 524-4444 for additional information.

New Pieces Gallery presents a list of artists for the year 1999. Located on Shattuck Avenue, New Pieces is the only gallery which shows quilts and soft sculpture and dolls exclusively. The gallery is open during store business hours. Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m. except major holidays. Details: 527-6779.

## Literary Events

Writer and historian, Everett Jenkins lectures on Friday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. at the Claremont Branch Library on the topic of Black Indians in America. He will discuss the shared history of an cultural heritage of African and native Americans as well as the long history of the intermingling between these two peoples. For more information, call 644-6880.

Peetly Flash @ Cody's presents poets Russ Ramsey and Doug Powell on Sunday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m. at Cody's Books, 454 Telegraph Ave. Donation \$2. Call 525-5476 or 845-7852 for additional information.

The Reading Edge is available for public use at the Berkeley Public Library, 2150 Alston Way. This computer scans printed text and reads it back aloud with a synthesized voice. It's available to anyone with a disability that requires the use of access print material. Users

must complete a brief training session before using the Reading Edge; after that, reservations are needed. Call the Reference Desk at 644-6648 to set up a training session.

**"Daily Word"** readers: Study Unity principles at Tamasca Library, 5205 Telegraph, Wednesdays noon to 1 p.m. Contact Anne Allen, 843-5611.

## Meetings

**National Association of Retired Federal Employees**, Chapter 1282, meet Tuesday Nov. 23, 1 p.m. at Albany United Methodist Church, 980 Stanger Ave., Albany. Program: "Update on Alzheimer's." Installation luncheon Dec. 6 at His Lordship. Call 799-1592 for reservations.

**The City Commons Club** meets in the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., every Friday. Social hour begins at 11:15 a.m. in the Venetian Room. Luncheon served at 11:45 to 12:15 p.m. \$10.75 or \$12.25. Speaker starts promptly at 12:30 p.m. Admission \$1 with coffee. Student admission free. Call 848-3533 for speaker information or to make reservations if you are bringing more than one guest.

**Speak Smart!** Join Beijing Express Toastmasters. The Smart Club! Meetings take place each Monday, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at Peking Express Restaurant, 2068 Center St. For additional information call 549-9671.

**Toastmasters Meeting:** Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice with us. Every Tuesday, Noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

**Take Pounds Off Sensibly (TOPS)** meets every Thursday evening at the First Baptist Church, Richmond, on Solano below Arlington. Call Betty Coates 235-0490 for more information. **Joy of Yiddish:** Yiddish conversation at 1 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

**The Berkeley Communicators** Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant. Details: 524-3765.

**The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group** meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Valley Auditorium, Herick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Dr. Brian Kaye, a rheumatologist, has treated many patients with various types of arthritis and will be available for questions. For additional information call 204-4503.

**Toastmasters on Campus** meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillegass. Details: 704-1822.

**Public speaking** skills and metaphysics come together at Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters. On-going meetings first and third Thursdays, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., 2515 Hillegass Ave., Call 869-2547 for details.

**Spirituality and Healing.** Voices of Healing Story Circles. Spiritually oriented healing group for people living with life-threatening illness. Meets second Wednesday of each month in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for information.

**State Health Toastmasters Club** meet every second, third and fourth Tuesday of the month from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

**Higher Alignment:** 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Mondays, fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships. Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; (415) 461-5337; \$20.

**Alta Bates Support Groups - Arthritis Support Group** meets the second Tuesday of every month; 1 - 2:30 p.m.; 204-4503. Call for additional special events.

**Overeaters Anonymous**, a 12 step program providing free aid for those with eating problems, meets in Berkeley every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers at 8 a.m.) at St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave. and in Richmond every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Hospital, 901 Nevin (take Elevator C to the third floor). For further information, call 733-9292.

**TOPS**, 9:30 a.m., Mondays; Take Pounds Off Sensibly. Albany Chapter meets at 980 Stanger St. at Marin; 233-2948 or Karen, 525-6858.

**Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters:** meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call 643-7645.

**Toastmasters:** noon - 1 p.m. Tues-

days; stand up and say what you mean; practice with the toastmasters; 700 Heinz Ave., Berkeley, 883-6708.

**Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center** and East Bay Neurology sponsors a free monthly stroke support group. No advance reservations are required, drop-in anytime. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Maffly Auditorium on Herick Campus, 2001 Dwight way, Berkeley. Details: 204-4503.

## Music

**Young People's Chamber Orchestra** (YPCA) kicks off its 18th season with its fall concert Sunday, Nov. 21, at 4 p.m. at St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College Ave., Young Musicians age 10-13 play music by Corelli, Handel, Bach and others. Tickets: \$5, adults, \$1 children. Refreshments follow. Call 595-4688 for additional information.

**Singers/songwriters** Jenny Bird and Melissa Crabtree continue their Bay Area Concerts on Saturday, Nov. 20, 8 p.m. Call 524-3545 for price and location or for additional information.

**The Berkeley High Jazz Ensemble** Fall Concert featuring Jazz Combo and Ensemble Lab Band takes place Friday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. at the Florence Schwimmler Little Theater, Berkeley High School, Alston Way between Martin Luther King Jr. Way and Milvia St. The musicians completed a tour of Japan this summer and performed at the Monterey and San Francisco Jazz Festivals. Tickets: \$5 general, \$3 students, faculty and seniors. Tickets can be purchased at the door. Other up-

coming events include performances at the Fourth Street Jazz Festival, the Claremont Hotel, the San Mateo Jazz Festival, the Oak Tree Lounge and other venues to be announced.

**New York-based recorder virtuosa** Rachel Begley and harpsichordist Jennifer Griesbach perform on Friday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m. at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Albany, 1501 Washington Ave. Suggested donation: \$10. For information or reservations, call 925-606-9331.

**African percussionist** Babatundé Olatunji performs on Sunday, Nov. 21, at 4 p.m. at Ashkenaz Music and Dance Community Center, 1317 San Pablo. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. Tickets: \$12. Call 525-5054 for additional information.

**Local flamenco** troupe Flamenco Vivo presents a lively "Flamenco Fiesta" on stage at the Odyssey Bistro, 1849 Shattuck Ave., on Sunday, Nov. 21. Two dinner shows at 7 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. Dinner reservations are recommended. For additional information call 849-1319.

**Freight & Salvage, Coffee House**, 111 Addison St., presents Hot Left Coast Bluegrass musician Laurel Canyon Ramblers, on Sunday, Nov. 21, 8 p.m. Show information call 548-1761.

**Duckan Distances**, featuring Donald Bailey on piano, vocals, harmonica, Isah Dixon, Acoustic Bass, Michael Lankford, Drums and Larry Giustino on Fretless Gibson L4, perform every Saturday night from 10 to 11 p.m. at Anna's Place, 1801 University at Grant. All ages welcome.

**The Jazzschool** presents Sunday afternoon concerts at 4:30 p.m. at the

Jazzschool LaNote Restaurant, 2375/77 Shattuck Ave. The concerts feature appearances by nationally-renowned artists and top jazz musicians living in the Bay Area. The talented faculty will be featured including Mike Zilber, Bill Douglass, Jenna Mammima, and Christy Dana. Tickets for Sunday concerts are \$12 general, \$10 students/seniors, \$6 Jazzschool students and children up to 12 years of age. Advance reservations are recommended. Call 845-5373 for additional information.

**Ashkenaz**, 1317 San Pablo Ave. presents Grateful Dead DJ night with Digital Dave and Jazz Z.D. on Thursday nights from 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$4. Call 594-1400 for additional information.

**Friday Night Folk Dancing:** 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave.; \$4, call 525-1542.

## Outdoors

**East Bay Regional Park Botanical Garden** Tilden Park, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of upcoming classes call 925-820-1021.

See CALENDAR, Page C14

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LAW, ROSITA, D.D.S.	528-1888
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FOWLER, ROBERT, D.D.S.	528-1888
HALE GARY, D.D.S.	528-1888
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STOLARCZUK, J.	526-2242
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ENTERTAINMENT	
MELO-DEE LOUNGE	526-2131
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CHANG, MICHAEL	528-1888
MOORE, BILL	528-1888
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BEADAZZLED	525-3263
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# Dining & Entertainment

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 (510) 451-5253

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Nov. 25th - 4:30 to 9 p.m.  
 Traditional Turkey  
 Thanksgiving Dinner  
**\$11.95**

Other Selected Menu Items Available  
 NOT VALID WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS

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Come enjoy our new French menu  
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We will be open for  
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 PLEASE CALL TO RESERVE A TABLE

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 LUNCH Mon-Fri. 11:30am-2pm  
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 7 Days from 5pm

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DINNER DAILY 5:30 - 9:30  
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**2 for 1 Entree**

Dinner \$12 Maximum  
 (Valid everyday - Expires 11/30/99)

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 FRESH MEX

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 PRESENTS A  
**FEATURED MENU**

FOR  
**EARLY DINERS**

Before 6:45 pm  
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After 6:45 pm \$21.95 per person  
 SUN - WED NIGHTS

5356 College  
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**@ California**  
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 Monday-Friday  
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 LUNCH SPECIAL Mon.-Sat. \$6.95 11am-2pm  
**MILLER Monday (Beer Dogs) • TACO Tuesday WINGIN' Wednesday (10¢ Wings) • LADIES NIGHT**

4239 Park Blvd. OAKLAND GLENVIEW DISTRICT 510.423.4239

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**\$10 OFF Dinner for 1**

One coupon per table - up to 4 people. Good Sunday - Thursday only from 3-5pm. Please present this coupon prior to ordering. \* Coupon expires 11/30/99

fresh food and the best margaritas with great service and a fun atmosphere.

**Garibaldi's on College**  
 5356 College Ave., near Manilla, Oakland (510) 595-4000

The menu at Garibaldi's focuses on Mediterranean-style seafood, from tantalizing appetizers (baked oysters, scallop ceviche) to perfectly done entrees (grilled swordfish, spaghetti with scallops and prawns).

Zesty mussels, with saffron, aioli and orange are piled high, and a rich dessert of warm chocolate pudding, cake, espresso ice cream and toasted nuts is enough to satisfy almost anyone. First-rate pizzas and cold tapas make this a great place for sharing, and a semi-private back dining room is good for groups. Major cards accepted and wheelchair accessible.

**Grand Oaks Restaurant**  
 3701 Grand Ave. • Oakland (510) 451-5253

The bread is hot. The portions are plentiful and the service is friendly. Local families, couples, business associates and newcomers create an energetic ambience. The continental menu features steaks, lamb, prime rib, seafood, pasta and many other specials. The Early Bird specials include soup or salad, and are priced to eat. Attention is paid to presentation and preparation. Also there's a full service bar. You can have a grand meal at Grand Oaks.

**Julia Morgan Theater**

2640 College Ave., Berkeley (510) 845-8542 www.juliamorgan.org  
 This weekend come out and relive some of the great songs of the 20th century. On Friday, November 12, The Moodswing Orchestra performs Songs of the 1940's. On Saturday, November 13, check out the Music of George Gershwin for Gershwin Lovers. Call (510) 883-7023 for tickets and information.

**Kimball's East**

Emerybay Public Market Emeryville (510) 658-2555  
 The Bay Area's finest entertainment venue. Please check our website for our complete entertainment schedule: www.kimballs.com. We are located in the heart of Emeryville at 5800 Shellmound Street, #200. Our phone number is (510) 658-2555 and fax number is (510) 658-3964.

**La Creme de la Creme**

5362 College Avenue Oakland (510) 420-8822  
 Come join us in celebrating our 18th anniversary. We are featuring some of our signature dishes, including Grilled Jumbo Scallops and Tiger Prawns or Brochettes, Rack of Lamb ala Marechale, Rib-Eye Steak Au Poivre and Fillet Mignon Oscar. Our

chef has also prepared a variety of Seafood Specials menu on occasion. Try our award-winning sumptuous desserts, Garibaldi's Creme and Pear Bombe. You can also enjoy your experience in our heated patio. Please call (510) 423-4239 for reservations.

**Meridian Restaurant & Lounge**

1051 Pacific Marina Alameda (510) 748-0990  
 The Restaurant & Lounge is contemporary and spacious with a waterfront view. Our room features an intimate atmosphere with a backdrop of the skyline.

The menu is moderate with a seasonal organic feel featuring high-quality ingredients. Full Bar. Banquet room and large parties. Open 7 days a week. Lunch: Sun-Sat 11:30-2:30. Dinner: Sun-Wed 5:30-9:30. Sat 5-10 pm.

**Pasta Pelican**

2455 Mariner Square Unit 100 Alameda (510) 864-7437  
 Pasta Pelican offers a dining featuring fine Italian spirits - and wonderful value. Enjoy a pleasant atmosphere intimate meals and gatherings. Lunch 11 am - 2 pm. Dinner 5 to 9 p.m. Pasta located behind the Webster.

**The Reef**

1000 Embarcadero Oakland (510) 836-2519  
 At The Reef restaurant a combination of quality food, bought daily, with the expertise from the same 18 years. The menu features sautéed, broiled or Cauda Salmon, swordfish, and year-round seasonal specials are just your liking.

The Reef Restaurant is one mile south of Webster Square off 880 Webster Square and a complimentary dock make this a good place by land or sea.

**RoundTable**

OUR LOCATIONS IN OAKLAND  
**4400 Keller Ave.**  
 (510) 568-4122  
**2071 Mountain Blvd.**  
 (510) 339-9494  
**2854 Mountain Blvd.**  
 (510) 482-1111  
**4184 Piedmont Ave.**  
 (510) 655-6449  
**2045 MacArthur Blvd.**  
 (510) 531-5730  
**398 Grand Ave.**  
 (510) 763-0112  
 Comfort food, conversation. No matter how you slice it, delicious and delightful.

Oakland Ballet PRESENTS

**Nutcracker**

WITH THE  
 Oakland East Bay Symphony

**Dec. 10-24 AT THE  
 Paramount Theatre**

2025 Broadway (AT 21ST STREET)  
 Oakland • (510) 465-6400

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR:

- Friday, Dec. 10, 7pm
- Saturday, Dec. 11, 2pm & 7pm
- Sunday, Dec. 12, 2pm
- Friday, Dec. 17, 7pm
- Saturday, Dec. 18, 2pm & 7pm
- Sunday, Dec. 19, 2pm
- Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2pm
- Wednesday, Dec. 22, 11am Community Morning Matinee
- Thursday, Dec. 23, 2pm Community Morning Matinee
- Thursday, Dec. 23, 7pm
- Friday, Dec. 24, 11am

**BOX OFFICE OPEN**

Tuesday-Friday  
 12-6pm,  
 Saturday  
 12-5pm

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 THROUGH  
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BASS Charge:  
 (510) 762-2277

BASS Artsline:  
 (415) 776-1999



**Theater Kids  
 Holiday Camp**

Acting, Singing, Dancing  
 Dec. 20-23 & 27-30  
 All-Day Camp For Kids 7-14  
 Call (510) 883-7023 for info!

**Julia Morgan**  
 CENTER FOR THE ARTS

2640 College Avenue, Berkeley  
 www.juliamorgan.org

**The Cantina**

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 Oakland (510) 482-3073

Visualize the perfect Mexican Restaurant. What would you create? How about a menu with over sixty freshly prepared selections to choose from? Dishes are created with the freshest ingredients available, with cilantro and a variety of mild and hot peppers. An extensive collection of hot sauces from around the world allow you to add your own special spice to make your meal truly your own.

Margarita's are made to tickle your taste buds. The variety is extensive, the quality and flavor unbeatable; a house margarita, golden, original, blue, pink, sweet, fruit, and of course, the ultimate.

Sounds like we're on our way to a great Fiesta and there's more: Great Luncheon Specials Monday through Saturday; the hottest Happy Hour in paradise; not to mention, the best place to spend a Monday night watching football in the NFL. Dine indoors or out.

**Chevys**

2400 Mariner Square  
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7 pmThe  
Manhattans  
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Sun. December 5Live Band Lessons with  
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510-658-2555

## Berkeley Ballet Theater

Ann Fisher, Artistic Director  
PresentsThe  
NUTCRACKER

December 10, 11, 17, &amp; 18 7PM

December 12, 18, &amp; 19 2PM

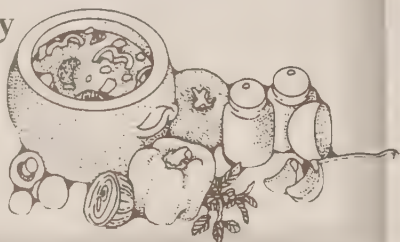
December 12 6PM

TICKETS: \$12-\$15

BOX OFFICE: (510) 843-4689

JULIA MORGAN CENTER  
2640 COLLEGE AVENUE  
BERKELEY, CA 94704

Sauce.....The one infallible sign of civilization and enlightenment. A people with no sauces has one thousand vices; a people with one sauce has only nine hundred and ninety-nine. For every sauce invented and accepted a vice is renounced and forgiven. —Ambrose Bierce



## Dining &amp; Entertainment

GUIDE

## CAFOOD

## Waterfront Cafe

4000 Harmer Square Dr., Alameda (510) 523-FISH Located next to Chevy's

## Whales Tail

144 Ballena Blvd., Alameda (510) 522-6200 Located on the water

## ITALIAN

## Pasta Pelican

4000 Harmer Square Dr., Alameda (510) 864-7427 Behind Webster St. tube

## JAPANESE

## Amakura

400 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda (510) 521-9121 Between Park &amp; Broadway

## Sushi House

2206 South Shore Ctr, Alameda (510) 865-9999 across from the Warehouse

## Sapporo Sushi Boat

145 Webster Street, Alameda (510) 749-8461 • Fax (510) 749-8364

## AMERICAN

## Chevy's

4000 Harmer Sq., Alameda (510) 521-3768 Behind the Webster St. tube

## The Cantina

www.greatmex.com

## El Caballo

1400 Grand Drive, Alameda (510) 521-4032 at Harbor Bay Landing Shopping Ctr

## ITALIAN

## Indian Indian Cuisine

1400 Webster St., Alameda (510) 523-6993 Located in Alameda's West End

## BREWERY

## Pyramid Alehouse

www.pyramidales.com

## ENTERTAINMENT

## Kimball's East

400 Shellmound, Emeryville (510) 658-2555 • www.kimballs.com Powell St. exit from 880

## Julia Morgan Theater

2640 College Ave., Berkeley (510) 883-7023 www.juliamorgan.org

## CALIFORNIA CUISINE

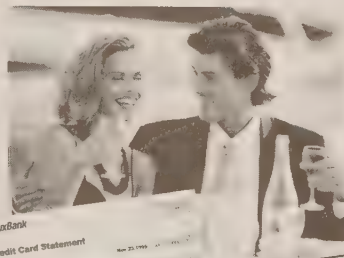
## Meridian Restaurant &amp; Lounge

1400 Pacific Marina, Alameda (510) 748-0920

FOR INFORMATION ON THE DINING &amp; ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE, CALL DUKE REEDY AT (510) 339-4036

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1

**LEGAL NOTICE**

October  
STEPHEN

October 4, 1999  
STEPHEN L. WEIR  
County Clerk  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
By M. Chapman  
FILE NO.  
CONTINUOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
name of the business  
CRYSTAL CRYSTAL CRYSTAL CRYSTAL  
OL & SPA SERVICE A  
at 1262 N. Main Street  
CA. 94555 is here-  
registered by the following  
info)  
ader Patino  
Rialto Way  
Baker, CA 94555  
his business is conducted  
an individual  
as Salvador Patino  
this statement was filed  
the County Clerk of Con-  
Costa on date indicated  
the stamp above  
Business commencing  
October 4, 1999  
Expires October 4, 2004  
At The County Clerk's  
November 5, 12, 19  
1999  
FILED  
OCTOBER 11 1999  
STEPHEN L. WEIR  
County Clerk  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
By R. Smith

FILE NO. 99-6901  
**RECURRING BUSINESS**  
**NAME STATEMENT**  
 name of the business  
 SMALL HOME AND YARD  
 MAINTENANCE SERVICE  
 located at 3607 Dumbarton St.  
 in Concord, CA 94519  
 is hereby registered by the fol-  
 lowing owner(s):  
 David Van Wyk  
 707 Dumbarton St.  
 Concord, CA 94519  
 This business is conducted  
 as an individual  
 owned by David Van Wyk  
 This statement was filed  
 with the County Clerk of Con-  
 cord, California, on the \_\_\_\_\_  
 day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1999, at the  
 file stamp above.  
 Business commenced on  
 \_\_\_\_\_, October 11, 1999  
 and expires \_\_\_\_\_, September 10, 2004  
 (at the Journal #0183  
 filed November 5, 2012  
 1999)  
 FILED 11  
 October 5, 1999  
 STEPHEN J. WERT  
 County Clerk

NORTA COSTA COUNTY  
 By Trish Kleane, Deputy  
 FILE NO. 99-6714  
**PROFITABLE BUSINESS**  
**NAME STATEMENT**  
 I, the name of the business  
 is ONE BEAUTY N BAR.  
 is located at 2941 Ter-  
 race Way #26 in Martinez,  
 94553 is hereby regis-  
 tered by the following own-  
 er(s)  
 Thilassa Dedra Newton  
 21 Terrace Way #26  
 Martinez, CA 94553?  
 This business is conducted  
 as an individual.  
 I, Thilassa D Newton  
 this statement was filed  
 with the County Clerk of  
 Costa on date indicated  
 file stamp above  
 Business commenced on

October 5 1999  
Expires October 5 2004  
Legal The Journal # 24  
Polish November 5 12 19  
1999

FED  
October 14 1999  
STEPHEN J WEIR  
County Clerk  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
By M Co. President  
LE NO 99-6221

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT**  
The name of the business is  
RG N- ME is located at  
00 Crow Canyon Rd Suite  
1101 in Danville Ca 94506  
heretby registered by the  
owning owners

thony James  
26 Stagecoach Rd. condo

bin, CA 94568  
his business is conducted  
by an individual.  
is Eric James  
his statement was filed  
in the public record of  
Costa on date indicated  
file stamp above  
message received on  
October 18, 1999  
Expires October 14, 2004  
The name of the business is  
CASHA, INC. CA 94568  
by individual

AMENDED  
FILED  
SEPTEMBER 27, 1999  
STEPHEN I. WEIR  
County Clerk  
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY  
By T. Kleene, Deputy  
CLERK No. 99-3534  
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME STATEMENT  
The name of the business is  
"SKY RANGER PRODUCTIONS"  
The principal office of the business is  
"REVA'S SOLANO" is located at  
"663 Solano Ave., Suite 362  
Berkeley, CA 94702"  
The business is a  
partnership registered by the following  
owners:  
"Reva Myles"  
"663 Solano Ave., Suite 362  
Berkeley, CA 94702"  
his business is conducted  
by an individual

# results

**ing for saving**  
Classifieds  
e listings, more

eds

\_\_\_\_\_



# The Auto Section

The Montclair, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

November 19, 1999

Section D

**Car Trends** Manufacturers plug into electric ideas [D2]

**New Models** Ford scores with the new Taurus [D3]

**Classified** Buy it, sell it, trade it here [D7]

## Toyota's 2000 Avalon flows uphill

### Keane on Wheels

By Tom Keane

A word at once both ordinary and unusual entered my mind when thinking of a way to describe the Toyota 2000 Avalon: "fluid."

The all-new Avalon is Toyota's top-of-the-line full-size sedan loaded with luxurious refinement. What makes it so delightful, and caused me to think of the word fluid, is that it's exceptionally easy to handle.

Thinking back over the more than 800 vehicles I have test-driven, I believe this is one of the most effortless and smoothest cars to drive I've ever been in.

But why the word fluid? The thought came to mind when turning the steering wheel. The Avalon seemed to flow in the direction that I wanted it to go. At first, I was alarmed. Do I have control of this car? So I gave the wheel more positive directions and each turn was precise, much the way I'd expect a performance car to be. Yet the car was gentle, soft, and easy to manage.

The fluid motion of such a simple thing as opening the door is noticeable. Inside is more interior roominess. Because the doors are a bit larger, it is even easier to slide behind the wheel. The driver's seat is slightly higher, helping to provide better visibility. I'm told the roof

See AVALON, Page D4



UNDER THE HOOD of the 2000 Avalon beats a 3.0-liter V6 with variable valve timing that generates 210 horsepower without making too much noise. City/highway fuel economy yields 21/29 mpg.

### Drive, She Said

By Denise McCluggage

"Drivers want to put their cars, particularly those that are out of warranty, under the care of someone they trust."

## Goodyear mines for GEM cars

Does your car have a name? Do you talk to it? Do you pamper your car more than you do yourself?

If you do, you are quite likely to be young, single and have a car that is three or more years old. At least that's what I gather from what is described as a recent "car confessions" survey by Goodyear on behalf of its new Gemini Automotive Care centers.

The centers are not exactly new. They represent revitalization, redesigning and renaming of Goodyear's Certified Auto Service. The new centers opened some 1,700 strong in September. And the sur-

See SURVEY, Page D4

## Reasons To Buy Downtown

1. Sign and Drive, A Real \$0 Down!
2. 0% APR Available
3. 0 Payments
4. All trades taken • Lease • Buy • Paid For Or Not Welcome.

### 2000 Toyota Corollas

**\$0 Down And \$169 Per Month + Tax**

39 mo. closed end lease. \$461.44 due at lease inception. \$150 residual. 12k miles/year. 1 @ this payment #000933 Model #1714

### 2000 Echo

**\$9,899** • LEV Vehicle • Deluxe Stereo System • Tilt & MORE!



**\$0 DOWN OR 0% APR FINANCING**

**\$0 PAYMENTS On All New Toyotas**

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**15 Tundras 10 Siennas In Stock!**

Starting From **\$22,988** **ALL 2000 Siennas**

1 @ this price #218350 Model 5324

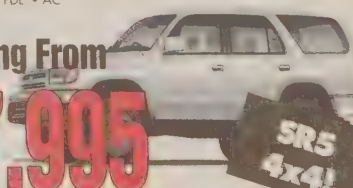


### 2000/1999 Toyota 4 Runners

Auto • V-6 Pw • PDL • AC CD c

Starting From **\$27,995** **SR5 4x4!**

1 99 @ this price #237437 Demo.



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# Manufacturers test the market with electric cars

By Diane Dietz

THE REGISTER-GUARD, EUGENE, ORE.

When Paul Clevenger's wife went to work, the family needed a second car — but he just couldn't imagine spending another \$20,000 that way.

He considered commuting by bus, but his job as maintenance man at Williams Bakery often called him to work ahead of the buses, so he tried bicycling.

"It's different riding a bike out there at 2 a.m.," he said. "There are different people out there — especially on the bike path."

After a couple of months he was thinking "car" again, when by chance he stopped at the Eugene Water & Electric Board to pay a bill and saw the funky white bubble of the Gizmo, a Eugene-made electric vehicle.

The Gizmo is faster than a speeding bike, easier to manage than a fist full of bus schedules and able to outrun a gasoline-powered car for the first 20 feet — and the price tag is \$7,950.

"I'll buy it," Clevenger said, putting an order in on that April day two years ago. He's commuted by Gizmo ever since.

Automotive manufacturers are betting that the average American isn't that much different than Clevenger.

Honda and Toyota will roll out hybrid electric cars designed to appeal to the masses. They'll be available here in the coming months. NEVC, maker of the Gizmo, is gearing up for a vehicle-a-day production by January.

Widespread use of small, zippy electric cars would ease traffic jams, parking shortages and air pollution.

That's appealing in Eugene-Springfield, where the government's 15-year transportation plan forecasts a 58 percent increase in congestion as a best-case scenario.

A 30-year effort to get Eugene residents out of cars and onto bicycles hasn't made a dent in car traffic, largely because bicycles don't fit in with complicated lifestyles that require a lot of extra trips each day.

Now, some think electric cars are part of the answer. They go fast. They allow for constant errand running, yet they don't pollute or take up much of the roadway.

People are going to buy the new electric idea, said Ken Kurani, a research engineer at the Institute of Transportation Studies at the University of California, Davis.

"The optimists are saying within five years," he said. "The pessimists are saying 10 years. Everybody is saying it can and will happen."

Why now?

Electric car technology has been around for a century. Henry Ford's wife drove an electric-powered Detroit.

So why would electrics make a claim on the auto market now?

The 1990s brought a rapid evolution in technology, said Bill Van Amburg, vice president of the California-based WestStart, a nonprofit organization that nurtures new transportation technologies.

Concerns about urban air pollution and global warming led to a demand for greener cars. California is requiring that 10 percent of new cars sold be pollution-free by 2003.

That alone creates a 160,000-car market for electric cars.

Pushed by the federal government, three top automakers invested more than \$1 billion in joint research during the past six years.

The end of the Cold War freed a lot of bright defense-industry engineers to work on civilian technical problems, Van Amburg said.

Revolution in computing and electronics also spilled over to auto manufacturing, allowing for smaller and cheaper vehicle control systems.

Now, car companies are preparing to roll out a new generation of electric cars, called hybrids.

They use electric power at low speeds and a boost from a small gasoline engine at higher speeds.

The hybrids get twice the miles per gallon and produce half the air pollution as the average U.S. car, and drivers don't have to fuss with plugging them in because they recharge themselves.

The Honda version, called Insight, is scheduled to hit Eugene-Springfield dealerships in mid-December.

The Toyota's hybrid, Prius, will be here in July — after having sold more than 30,000 in Japan.

Ford and DaimlerChrysler are investing in a succeeding generation of electric cars — powered by electricity from chemical actions in fuel cells instead of batteries. Fuel cell cars are expected by 2004.

"The technology has reached the point you can make real functional vehicles," Van Amburg said, "now the question is getting them into the marketplace."

Mass acceptance of electric cars will require a dramatic change of taste and/or attitude on the part of American car buyers.

The trend in the '90s has been toward bigger, heavier and less-efficient vehicles — from vans, to big trucks, to sport utility vehicles to Humvees.

Half of all vehicles sold in the United States today fall into this super-charged category.

Similarly, small, light-weight and super-efficient electric cars aren't selling. General Motors brought out its electric EV1 in the United States three years ago.

The EV1 was heralded as a cute, peppy two-seater, but only about 600 consumers opted for the cars through a leasing program.



THE TOYOTA'S HYBRID, PRIUS, will be here in July — after having sold more than 30,000 in Japan.

## Car comparisons

### NEVC Gizmo

Power: All electric  
Size: One passenger  
Range per charge: 18 miles  
Recharge time: 3 hours (if depleted)  
Weight: 600 pounds  
Efficiency: 7 cents a mile (includes periodic battery purchase)  
Price: \$7,950 (minus state tax credit of \$750)  
Available: January

### Honda Insight

Power: Hybrid gasoline/electric  
Size: Two doors, two passengers  
Range per fill up: 700 miles  
Recharge time: Zero (self-charging)  
Weight: 1,856 pounds  
Efficiency: 61 mpg city, 70 mpg highway  
Price: Less than \$20,000  
Available: Mid-December

### Toyota Prius

Power: Hybrid gasoline/electric  
Size: Four door, five passengers  
Range per fill up: 600 miles  
Recharge time: Zero (self-charging)  
Weight: 2,728 pounds  
Efficiency: 55 mpg city/highway  
Price: Low \$20,000s  
Available: July

### Average car

Power: Gasoline  
Size: Four or five passengers  
Range per fill up: 250 to 300 miles  
Recharge time: None  
Weight: 3,000 pounds  
Efficiency: 25 mpg  
Price: About \$20,000  
Available: Since 1913

But people will change their preferences as the population grows and the cities become more choked with cars, like downtown Los Angeles or New York, analysts say.

"Where are we going to put all these cars? How are we going to move them around the city?" said Carl Watkins, president of NEVC, the Gizmo maker.

Electric cars, on the whole, are smaller than their gasoline-burning cousins. You can park four Gizmos in one standard parking spot — if 10 percent of Eugene residents drove a Gizmo a decade from now, the city would have 37,000 extra parking spots, Watkins said.

Some scientists believe oil companies will soon reach their peak oil production. In the future, demand will increase while supplies dwindle — and the price of a gallon of gas will skyrocket.

"Whether you care or not, sooner or later we're going to have to grapple with global warming," Van Amburg said.

"People are going to have to care, because we cannot deal with the changes we are making on our planet."

These trends, so far, haven't registered with the car-buying public. "It's like dying," said Mark Murphy, design director at the 5-year-old NEVC located at 4th Avenue and Lincoln Street.

"You know it's coming, but don't want to think about it."

But awareness seems higher in certain U.S. communities, especially in cities with colleges that teach environmental studies.

In college towns such as Eugene and Davis, Calif., a higher percentage of the population commutes by bicycle, according to U.S. Census reports.

Kurani tested the acceptance of electric cars among Davis residents, some of whom found the opportunity a relief.

"They said, 'I don't feel bad about taking this rather than riding my bike,'" he said.

In the future, Van Amburg said, people will buy their cars the way they've learned to buy their tennis shoes — a pair for cross-training, a pair for walking and a pair for jogging.

They'll walk into a dealership and describe their main purpose for the car, what kind of daily distance they drive, what they need to carry, how much room they have for parking and how much money they can spend.

In Eugene-Springfield, 75 percent of trips are less than 25 miles long and involve a person driving alone in a car. "You might go in and say, 'I need a commute/errand vehicle,'" Van Amburg said. "For certain options, the battery-powered electric car makes the most sense."

For Paul Clevenger, the 47-year-old bakery mechanic, the Gizmo has been ideal. He zooms six miles east on 13th Avenue in the morning, and returns west on 11th Avenue in the afternoon.

The Gizmo accelerates like a rocket, but reaches a top cruising speed of only 35 to 43 mph. Still, that's enough to get Clevenger to work in 10 minutes.

If the Gizmo's four automobile batteries are depleted, it takes three hours to charge them up — but Clevenger constantly tops them off by plugging in at work and at home.

The three-wheel Gizmo carries a single passenger, who sits in a fiberglass bubble with zipped canvas and plastic windows.

The driver steers the Gizmo with a pair of long joy sticks and stops it with a pair of motorcycle-type hand brakes.

The Gizmo has no heater — too big of a drain on the batteries — so Clevenger must wear a coat in the winter. He said he's rarely cold and never wet.

The Gizmo has a shoulder strap and seat belt, but no air bags.

He said he just likes to get in it and go, and his odometer backs the story up with 4,550 miles.

"I'm not environmental," he said. "I just like it."

Kurani, who performed a five-year study of consumer acceptance, doesn't believe tiny vehicles such as the Gizmo will catch fire with the public.

The 18-mile range is too limited; the market starts at 50 miles, he said.

To capture the masses, the cars must carry more people. "A one-person vehicle just isn't useful," he said. "The market for two seaters in the U.S. has historically been tiny. It doesn't matter what kind of vehicle."

Not so, say Gizmo enthusiasts. Drivers will see the wisdom in owning a Gizmo for commuting, and they'll rent a minivan or pick-up truck for visitors, moving or trips.

"Most households need one and one-half cars," said Don Kahle, a Eugene publisher and Gizmo driver. "This is half a car."

Gizmo's makers, however, are the first to admit that fuel efficiency and emissions performance are pretty lame selling points in today's car market.

People want a car that makes them feel good.

"That's why we made Gizmo cute. It's got this sort of pony, Irish setter appeal," said Murphy, the designer.

It's a rolling scavenger hunt — with weed-eater handles for steering, motorcycle mirrors, trailer tires and, in early versions, a tug-to-retract vacuum cleaner cord for recharging.

"The genius of it is the humility of it," Kahle said.

You can consider Gizmo as the 21st century thinking person's muscle car, "sort of a reverse status symbol," Murphy said. "It makes a statement."

"I'm comfortable with who I am," Watkins said. "I can take this," Murphy said.

So far, they've made about a dozen Gizmos, but have orders for 35 more.



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## Survey

FROM PAGE D1

vey was, let's face it, a way to call attention to them.

The Gemini Automotive Care centers will deal with your brand new car if you want, but they are primarily directed at what Goodyear (or its marketing people) chooses to call "GEMS," capitals and all. GEMS are vehicles — cars, trucks, vans, SUVs — three years or more old. And of the Americans who own or maintain a vehicle, nearly 85 percent of them, the survey says, have one that is three or more years old.

Bruskin Goldring Research is the outfit that randomly selected 2,000 U.S. households over two weekends last June and conducted a phone survey. That's how they decided that more than 62 percent of GEM owners talk to their cars.

Golly, after three or more years of getting no answer, one must admire the persistence, or question the wit of GEM owners. (But then again, who is to say for sure that they got no answer.)

As for giving cars nicknames, 18 percent of GEM owners do that. Says the survey, the older the car, the more apt it is to have a name. (The younger the owner, the more

likely the car has a name. And the more likely that the owner is single and female.) Some additional figures:

- 15 percent think of their cars as members of the family.
- 38 percent say they pamper their cars more than they do themselves.

- 90 percent of GEM owners say they have done something special to pamper their car in the past year.

- 56 percent have given their car a "spa treatment" (washing, waxing and detailing).

Goodyear has interpreted these figures to mean that owners of cars at least three years old really love their cars. And the terms do not seem well defined. Take "pamper." Does that mean soft chamomile rub-downs, a once over with tepid water and a dirty sponge or Q-tipping the radio controls?

I would also conclude that pampering, or thinking of a car as a family member, does not include simply putting air in the tires. Else this survey runs counter to surveys by the American Automobile Association. The AAA finds that by visiting any parking lot and checking the tires therein, three quarters or more of them will have incorrect tire pressure.

I submit to you: What kind of pampering is that?

Yet this survey goes on to say:

"When given the choice between kissing their mother- or father-in-law or their car, 38 percent of GEM owners said they would rather pucker up and head for the garage!" (Los Angeles residents were 15 percent more likely to kiss their car than those in New York or Chicago.)

But enough of silly surveys. What it comes down to is that drivers want to put their cars, particularly those that are out of warranty (and many so-called GEMS are), under the care of someone they trust. Goodyear's intention with its newly created car care centers is to be worthy of that trust by providing reliable fair-priced service in an environment in which a car owner feels well-informed, well-treated and confident.

The Gemini Automotive Care centers provide basic core services in braking, heating and air-conditioning, electrical system, belts and hoses, wheel alignment, suspension systems and engine diagnostics. All prices are prominently posted. Information is provided so car owners can make informed decisions and the warranty program (12-month, 12,000 miles) is good at any of the 1,700 nationwide centers. That is especially good news for travelers, never mind whether they called their car by name when they kissed it that morning.

To find a Gemini outpost, check www.Gemini.Goodyear.com.

## Avalon

FROM PAGE D1

is about an inch higher, too, and the rear seat has been raised slightly and moved backward to provide rear-seat passengers more legroom. Three large men sat in the rear and all claimed they were comfortable.

My tester was the up-scale XLS model with a base price of \$29,755. Add carpeting, a moonroof and a leather package that includes driver memory seats, 16-inch alloy wheels plus destination charges and it goes for \$32,618.

The 2000 is the second version of the Avalon; the original model was introduced in 1995 replacing the Camry as Toyota's flagship, which replaced the Cressida in 1991 and so on. What it amounts to is the Avalon is the very best car that Toyota builds, designed in Newport Beach expressly for the American public, and assembled in Kentucky. For Toyota to build exclusively at an overseas facility represents a first.

Toyota people told me that the designers wanted to give the exte-

rior more definition and presence. They also wanted to achieve better balance between driving performance and fuel economy, and they wanted a dramatic reduction in the noise, vibration and harshness.

As I examined those three points, there is no doubt each purpose has been achieved.

They had other objectives, too. They wanted a more comfortable vehicle. A bigger inside with a medium-size outside. Better safety and reduced costs. Again, in examining each objective, every goal has been achieved.

Under the hood is a 3.0-liter V6 that has variable valve timing that generates 210 horsepower without making too much noise. That's another feature I noticed about the Avalon. Not only does it have a quiet interior, the engine is hardly heard under hard acceleration. City/highway fuel economy is 21/29 mpg.

The instrument panel has two parts. Immediately in front of the driver are the conventional tachometer,

speedometer, fuel and temperature gauges. To the right is another panel containing temperature, compass, fuel economy, time and other interesting data.

This car also has a first-class 120-watt sound system that plays both cassette and CDs. Another notable feature is a dual climate control system that provides independent heating, ventilating and air conditioning adjustment between driver and passenger.

Even the power door locks and one-touch tilt/slide moonroof all seem to operate — well, here we go again — fluidly.

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## Taurus

FROM PAGE D3

In fact, the Taurus is the first American family car with the option that pulls the pedals from their standard position to as much as 3 inches closer to the driver.

This helps shorter drivers become more comfortably positioned behind the steering wheel and at a proper distance from that frontal air bag. At 5 feet, 4 inches tall I had only one reaction after using the pedals: What took so long? They're great!

Inside, the Taurus is roomy in a number of dimensions. Even the back seat is a decent place for three adults. The 38.9 inches of rear-seat legroom surpasses that of the Accord, Camry and Malibu. I could easily extend and cross my legs while riding back there.

The 57.4 inches of front-seat shoulder room in the Taurus and the 38.1 inches of rear-seat headroom also lead the others.

At the back, the Malibu's 17.1-cubic-foot trunk is just a tad bigger than the 17 cubic feet provided in the Taurus. But take a close look at the Taurus trunk scuff plate and you'll see an innovation: Hooks to attach those plastic grocery bags, so your food doesn't scatter all over the trunk.

The Taurus seats are nicely cushioned, and even the middle person in the back gets a soft resting spot. On too many other cars, that middle seat is hard and uncomfortable.

Ford officials said they want more women to buy this car. Currently, about half the Taurus buyers are female. Median age for at least 50 right now, they said, but Ford is targeting buyers in their mid-40s. Current household income of Taurus buyers is \$60,000; Ford wants to boost that with the new model.

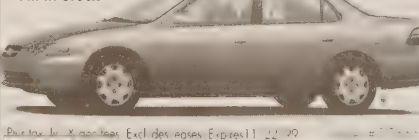
The starting MSRP plus destination charge for a 2000 Chevy Malibu is \$16,995. A 2000 Honda Accord V-6 starts at \$22,365, and a 2000 Toyota Camry V-6 starts at \$22,713 with a manual transmission.

Consumer Reports said 1997-98 Taurus models ranked average in owner trouble complaints.

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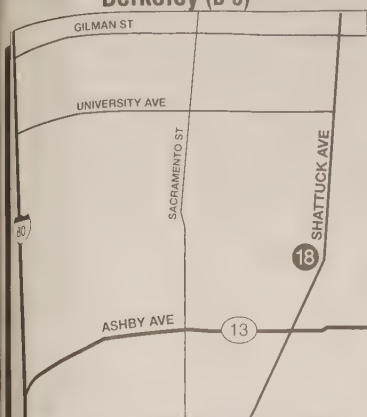
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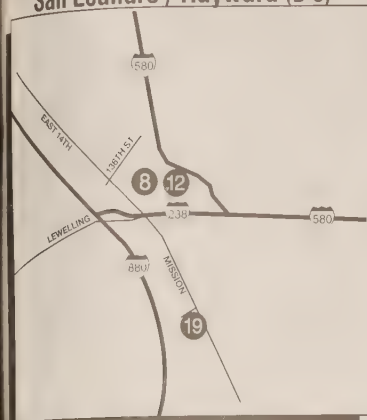
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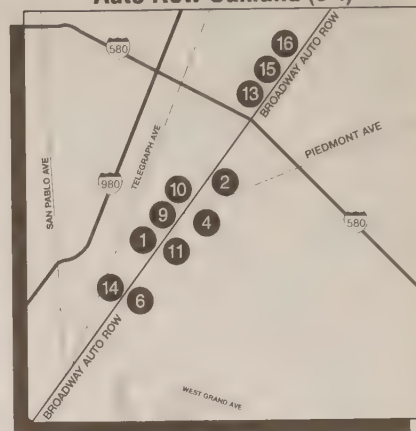
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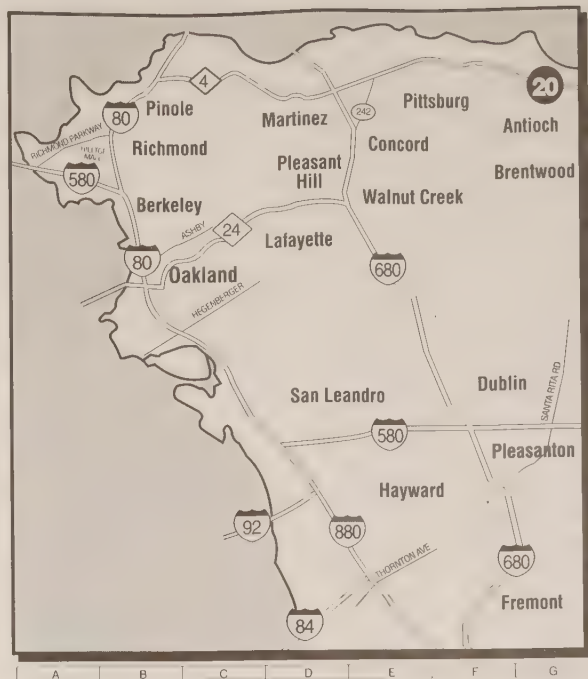
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407 Home Furnishings

ARMCHAIR 35" x 35" x 35", \$125. (925) 895-9525

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410 Articles for Sale

PATIO TABLE, w/4 chrs, wicker, \$150. (925) 895-9525

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410 Articles for Sale

POOL TBL, 4x8 oak, Ohausen, \$150. (925) 895-9525

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WATERBED, Mattress, \$150. (925) 895-9525

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Alameda

1431 HIGH ST SAT 10-12. (925) 895-9525

1919 CHESTNUT ST. Bligger. Sale everything for all. Big basement. Sat. 11/20. (925) 895-9525

2157 LINCOLN, Sat/Sun 9:30-3:30. Furn, freezer, wood wind, trailer. V. low. (925) 895-9525

2807 VAN BUREN, Sat, 8-2. Bunk bed, futon, sports, hand goods. Lots of stuff. (925) 895-9525

4 REDONDO CT/Marina Village. Sat, 10-3. Custom soap, love seat, entertainment center, tables, lamps, stereo, more. Quality stuff at great prices. (925) 895-9525

DESIGNER'S SALE, Sat, 9-3. 1025 Levelling Ct. Antique, modern, pine, armoire, dresser, canopy, bed frame, 50's computer, white table, set, more. Complete PowerMac computer setup. (925) 895-9525

Alamo

FRIDAY & SAT 9-4. Saleman's Sample Sale. Craft supplies, ribbons, craft books, business cards, calendars, Christmas decorations. 221 Glenwood Ct. Stone Valley Rd. At Oak Hill Park. (925) 895-9525

GARAGE SALE. Trampoline, dining room set, large hutch, misc. household items, clothing, yards & yards of material & notions. 920 Danville Blvd. (park along Danville Blvd. only). SATURDAY 9-1. (925) 895-9525

MOVING SALE. Sat 8-4pm. (925) 895-9525

448 Oakshire Pl. (corner of Ocean/Pine). Toys, bikes, games, furn., more. Books, dolls, etc. You name it we probably have it. (925) 895-9525

SATURDAY ONLY, 9-3. 23 Johnston Lane (off of Danville Blvd). In great cond. stroller, car seat, crib, & Noid bedding, great, great, swing, extra toys, clothing, household items, entertainment center, misc. (925) 895-9525

Antioch

BIG GARAGE SALE. SAT 8-3. Name brand baby/dollery clothes, toys, housewares, Christmas items, baby furniture, much more. 3171 BARMOUTH DR (off Davison). (925) 895-9525

FRIDAY SAT 7-2. Furn; 2 twin beds & matts, clothes, adult housewares, BBQ, children's toys, more. 2632 Point Lobos Ct. (925) 895-9525

HUGE SALE. Moving out of State. MUST GO. 4501 HORSESHOE CIR. (Hillcrest/Lake). Sat & Sun 9-2. (925) 895-9525

MULTI-FAMILY SALE. Sat, 20th, 8am-10pm. 42 Wintertown Ct. (off of Hillcrest). Hunting & fishing equip, stereo, electronic, children's games & clothing, white water canoe w/ accessories. (925) 895-9525

Neighborhood Sale

SAT 8-2. Furniture, clothes, Nintendo games, housewares, toys, toys, microwave. 4409 D St. (corner of Texas & D St.). (925) 895-9525

Antioch

SAT, SUN 7 A.M. Baby stuff, clothes, books, toys, tools, household items. 430 Boulder Dr. (off of Eagle & Boulder). (925) 895-9525

Berkeley. 2 FAMILY SALE. Sun, 11-3. 1500 Le Roy Ave. (925) 895-9525

BIG GARAGE SALE. Ethnic antiques, rug, collectibles, housewares, etc. 1145 MONTEREY AVE. (near Hopkins/N. 20-21. (925) 895-9525

Bethel Island. THE PACK RATS. Annual Flea Market. 3536 W. Hwy 92. Park. (925) 895-9525

Brentwood

YARD SALE & Holiday Bazaar. Collectible glassware, books, toys, housewares, ornaments, Bazaar's home furnishings, antiques, Christmas decorations. 6715 Brentwood Bl. 925-34-9345. 10-4 Sat 11/20. (925) 895-9525

Clayton. SATURDAY SUN 9-1. Bunk bed & dresser, lots of toys, books, trink, household misc. (925) 895-9525

5017 Raven Wy. (corner of Ocean/Pine). Toys, bikes, games, furn., more. Books, dolls, etc. You name it we probably have it. (925) 895-9525

1021 SAN MIGUEL RD. HUGO SALE. Tools, office supplies, kitchenware, furniture, books, old records & much more. Sat. Only 10-4. No Early Birds. (925) 895-9525

Concord

3475 Rose Ct. (Off Roseland, off Walnut). SAT, Sun, 9-2. Poken, toys, housewares, Bazaar's home furnishings, antiques, Christmas decorations. 6715 Brentwood Bl. 925-34-9345. 10-4 Sat 11/20. (925) 895-9525

ESTATE SALE. Furniture, kitchenware, linens, books & knick knacks. Clayton to Madison to 4727 Curletto. Sat & Sun 7am-4pm. (925) 895-9525

Garage/Moving Sale. 1007 Larkwood Ct. Sat 9-3. Some furn. & kitchen items, & clothing. (925) 895-9525

MOVING SALE. (off Oak Grove). SAT & SUN 9-4. Baby stuff, new wooden carousal rock horse, Bazaar's home furnishings, antiques, Christmas decorations. 6715 Brentwood Bl. 925-34-9345. 10-4 Sat 11/20. (925) 895-9525

MOVING SALE. 2 chairs, lots of jewelry, housewares, items, more. 585 Farm Bureau Rd. (off Oak Grove). Sat 9-2pm. No Early Birds Please. (925) 895-9525

Concord

MOVING SALE. SAT, MON 9-2. 1548 SCHENCKE CT. Furn, misc, clothes, toys, bikes, TV, books, games, housewares, kitchenware, 76 Toyota, & more! (925) 895-9525

Neighborhood Garage Sale. 671 Fisher Dr. Sat. 6:30-11:00 AM. HP Printer & lots of other stuff. (925) 895-9525

Crocket. ESTATE SALE. This one's a must! 328 Clark St. (off of Oak Grove). (925) 895-9525

Danville. 337 PARADISE DRIVE. SAT 8-1. RAIN or SHINE. Babies, Kids Clothing, Lots of Toys, hand. items. MUCH MORE. (925) 895-9525

Dublin

MOVING SALE. SAT, SUN 8-7. 6712 Sapphire St. Furniture, household items. (925) 895-9525

SATURDAY 8-2. 8467 DEERVALE RD. Furn, appliances, toys, misc. (925) 895-9525

SATURDAY 9-4. 7748 DEERVALE RD. Household items, exercise equipment, electronics, & misc. Canceled if raining. (925) 895-9525

El Cerrito. 532 Liberty St. Sat 9-2. Futon, dune-beds, baby things, lots of misc. (925) 895-9525

Livermore

ESTATE SALE. 320 Colorado St. (off Fairmont). SATURDAY ONLY. 1940-50's Dining set & china cab, Maple desk & bookcases, Hopewell's Nontake Club, 1000's of items, 4000+ papers, books, records, & misc. household goods. 551 Lomen Way. (925) 895-9525

RAIN or SHINE. Martinez. 2522 FERN LEAF LANE (Off Starliner). Sat. & Sun 9-4 P.M. Furniture, kitchen items & more. Rain or Shine! (925) 895-9525

MOVING SALE. SAT, SUN 8-2. 1237 Fetzler Lane. 921 West Cypress Rd. 921 West Cypress Rd. 921 West Cypress Rd. 921 West Cypress Rd. 921 West Cypress Rd. 921 West Cypress Rd. (925) 895-9525

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Livermore



Services	553 Architects	558 Decks & Fences	561 Garden and Yard & Services	561 Garden and Yard & Services	563 Hauling	565 Housekeeping & Home Services	569 Painting & Wallpaper	569 Painting & Wallpaper	572 Roofing & Gutters
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**age, sump pumps, electric**  
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